

TODAY
10P

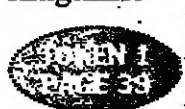
HAS THE CLAUDIA BUBBLE BURST?

Schiffer on her future with catwalks and Copperfield PAGE 17



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TODAY
10P

'She was only doing her duty. Who else was doing their duty? No one as far as I can see'

WPC's father accuses courts of failing her

By PAUL REES, RICHARD FORD AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE father of WPC Nina Mackay criticised the judicial system yesterday when it was revealed that a man arrested for killing his daughter had been given bail after being accused of assault.

Sidney Mackay, 54, a retired police chief superintendent, said: "My argument is that it is the police not the social services or the courts who have to pick up the pieces for the failings of society. At times like these they pay the heaviest price."

"Her death was needless. She was only doing her duty. Who else was doing their duty? No one as far as I can see."

Somalia-born Magdi Elsheikh Mohammed Elgizouli will appear before magistrates in Stratford, east London, today charged with murder. He is single, unemployed and is understood to have been receiving medical treatment for mental problems.

He was arrested on October 14 when police were called to a suspected arson attack on a hotel in Stoke Newington. He appeared at Highbury Corner magistrates court on October 15 but, despite opposition from the police and the Crown Prosecution Service, was freed on bail by a stipendiary magistrate to live in Stratford provided he reported daily to the local police station.

He failed to report and on October 17 was arrested by police in Worthing for their



WPC Mackay: she died after breaking down door

but was released on bail again.

Officers from 3 Area Territorial Support Group, a mobile back-up unit, went to arrest Mr Elgizouli for breaching bail conditions and expected the door of his flat in Stratford, east London, to be barricaded.

WPC Mackay, 25, had been trained in the use of the ram, known as an "enforcer", just 24 hours earlier.

She was supposed to break down the door and stand aside

to allow eight male colleagues with protective shields and body armour to enter. She took a practice swing with a hydraulic ram but found the heavy body armour cumbersome and took it off.

She then tried again but instead of being barricaded, the door flew open and sent her flying into the room. She received stab wounds to the abdomen and died two hours later in hospital. She is the first policewoman to be killed on duty since WPC Yvonne Fletcher, who was shot outside the Libyan Embassy in London in 1984.

Mr Mackay said: "Too frequently today under the guise of care in the community there are people at large who should clearly be in secure positions. The judicial system is written by lawyers, run by lawyers, for lawyers to make money."

"The judiciary is not accountable. Has the magistrate who allowed this man loose on the street any concept of duty or care to the community at large?"

Mr Mackay also criticised the defence lawyers' role in getting the man out on bail. "I hope they can live with their consciences because they are responsible for that man being loose on the streets."

Mr Mackay said the blame for his daughter's death did not lie with body armour. "Body armour is not the be all and end all. All it does is give the police a bit more of a defence. If she had been wearing it, I do not think it would have helped her."



A policewoman arranges flowers left by members of the public at Stratford police station in east London. Nina Mackay was based there.

"I do not know what body armour she was wearing but it is important because the implication is that my daughter has been the architect of her own death by removing it."

"Even if she had been wearing the vest it would have been highly unlikely that it would have protected her at all. And even if she had been wearing the external protection there is a high probability that it would not have protected her from the stabbing."

He said that his daughter

had confided in him that during the past year she had been frightened when she and colleagues arrested some armed criminals. "I told her: 'We do not run away.'"

He added: "I would like to say to the police officers who were with Nina, that they should not blame themselves. It was my daughter today, it will be someone else's tomorrow."

Mr Mackay, who retired after 32 years as a police officer, has one other child,

Nicholas, 29, who is also a policeman and serving with the Metropolitan Police fire arm unit, tried to stop his daughter joining the police. "I wanted her to do something else but she was a very determined young lady. She had her own views."

At 19, Miss Mackay went to the Metropolitan Police Training College in Hendon, north London. "She was a bright girl. She did not work as hard as she could have done but she was like any other young girl,"

he added. "She liked going out with her friends and going clubbing and buying clothes."

Last night, Mr Mackay, chairman of the Police Association, called for changes in the bail laws as a number of urgent and accused magistrates of being out of touch with violence. "They do a few night beats and what it is really like."

Tributes to WPC Mackay were led by Tony Blair, who expressed his horror at the

"appalling and vicious crime". The Prime Minister, speaking in Edinburgh, said: "Our deepest sympathies go to the family of the police officer."

Mr Paul London, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, added: "Tragically for circumstances which we are still exploring and trying to understand, it would seem she was not wearing her protective vest when she received the fatal injuries."

Life of danger, page 5

Call for petition on Lockerbie

The Government was threatened with a nationwide petition in Scotland if it continues to block a compromise over the trial of two men suspected of the Lockerbie bombing. A spokesman for relatives said they would call on Scots to back a Libyan plan for a trial in a third country. Page 2

Abortion plea

Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, urged the Prime Minister to help to change the hearts and minds of those who doubt that abortion is "a great evil". Page 9

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Blair promises to clear away EMU confusion

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

TONY BLAIR admitted last night that the Government had suffered a rough time over the single currency as he promised to clear up any lingering doubts today with a "definitive and detailed" statement from Gordon Brown.

Implicitly acknowledging that the Government's honeymoon had ended because of the confusion of recent weeks, Mr Blair promised that after today the British people, the business community and the rest of Europe would know where they stood.

He was speaking as the Chancellor, spending his Sunday at the Treasury, put the last touches to a Commons statement that will rule out early single currency membership on economic grounds — but reassure Europe that Britain is not opposed to the project in principle and will work to meet the tests he has set for entry.

He is also expected to tell business that it should prepare for the possibility of entry one day.

As the Prime Minister's official spokesman admitted that the Government had "taken a knock" over the way it had handled the issue, Mr Blair and the Chancellor consulted throughout the week-end over a statement that is expected to have a pro-European slant despite a decision on the single currency that will disappoint his European colleagues.

Mr Brown will confirm that Britain will not enter the first wave in 1999, and make plain that there will have to be a

lengthy period of stability, leading up to the next election, during which the impact of EMU on the British economy would have to be assessed.

However, his readiness to countenance British membership after that election, and an expected promise to the rest of Europe that Britain will help to make it work, will ensure that single currency will be central to the campaign when the Government does go to the country. Mr Brown believes a referendum could happen soon after then if Labour is returned to power.

William Hague has hardened up the Tory stance, the Conservatives will oppose EMU at the next election. But in a letter to the *Times* today an all-party group of pro-Europeans, including Lord Howe, the former Tory Foreign Secretary, and Roy Hattersley, the former Labour Deputy Leader, herald a new campaign involving business, the unions and politicians to win over the public to a single currency.

Mr Blair and Mr Brown also consulted Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday after internal criticism that there had been inadequate discussion before Mr Brown gave his interview in *The Times* ten days ago in which he signalled his intention to rule out membership.

Continued on page 2, col 5



Schumacher fails to snatch Villeneuve title

Jacques Villeneuve celebrates becoming World Formula One champion in Jerez in Spain yesterday after surviving an attempt by the German Michael Schumacher to barge him into a gravel trap. The deliberate collision, later excused by the stewards as "a racing incident" cost the German driver the chance of his third title when his own car slewed into the gravel.

"Michael showed his true colours and got what he deserved," said retiring champion Damon Hill, who lost the chance of the title in a similar clash with Schumacher at the Australian Grand Prix in 1994. Frank Williams, Villeneuve's employer, added: "It was Adelaide revisited. This time it was Jacques."

Schumacher protested his innocence, in little effect.

Race report, pages 23, 27

Army to allow women soldiers on the front line

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THOUSANDS of women soldiers will be allowed to serve on the front line with gunners and engineers under plans to be unveiled today by the Government.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, will also announce a study into whether women should be allowed to fight in combat roles alongside men. The moves will be seen as Mr Robertson's attempt to take Labour's modernisation campaign to the armed forces.

He is to announce that the number of jobs open to women in the Army will increase by nearly 50 per cent and that they will be able to apply for the first time to take front-line jobs. But for the time being they will not be allowed to take combat jobs as infantry, soldiers or tank crew.

Mr Robertson is to announce that all regular Army posts will be open to women, except those in the infantry, Household Cavalry or Royal Armoured Corps, whose members are likely to be in face-to-face contact with an enemy.

But he is to lift the current ban on women serving in Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers or Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers posts that are in direct support of infantry or tanks.

This will mean that women will be able to compete for jobs such as forward radio operators, combat engineers and artillery gunners that will take them nearer to the enemy than most of their male colleagues. They will have to pass the

same rigorous physical and mental tests. At present women are not allowed ahead of the logistic support vehicles that back up fighting units.

Until now the military judgment has been that women fighting alongside men could impair the effectiveness of the armed forces. But Mr Robertson has decided that it is time to look at that judgment again. It is expected that senior military officers will strongly oppose any moves to give women fighting roles.

At present only 47 per cent of Army jobs are open to women in practice only 7,000 of the 109,000 jobs in the Army are taken by women.

"Women make up only 6.3 per cent of the Army and that should surely change," a government source said. The source denied that Mr Robertson was taking a "politically correct" attitude. "We want positive action, not positive discrimination," the source said.

For change to occur traditional attitudes will have to be beaten down, ministers admit. In 1994 Congress ordered the US Army to open up 47,000 combat-related jobs to women but currently there are only 815 women fit these.

The Army is regarded as a last bastion of opposition by equal opportunities campaigners. In the Navy 74 per cent of posts are open to women and in the Royal Air Force 97 per cent of jobs, including that of fighter pilot, can go to women. Mr Robertson will call today for "modern armed forces for the modern world".

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Families back Lockerbie plan

Ministers are under pressure to accept Libyan compromise reports

Michael Binyon

THE Government was threatened yesterday with a nationwide petition in Scotland if it continued to block an offer of compromise over the trial of two men suspected of the Lockerbie bombing.

The spokesman for relatives of those who died in the attack issued a warning that it would call on the Scots to support acceptance of the Libyan proposal to try the suspects in a third country.

Jim Swire, who lost a daughter in the bombing, said the relatives in Britain had concluded that a trial in Scotland or America was "simply not achievable". At a press conference held to support President Mandela's call for a compromise, he said they had been given so many reasons why such a trial could not be held that they had concluded that these were transparently excuses.

President Mandela publicly called on Britain at the weekend to allow justice to be "seen to be done", and repeated claims by the Organisation of African Unity and the Arab League that this would be impossible in Scotland.

Dr Swire said that the relatives had become the playthings of lawyers and politicians. He accused the previous Government of a "monstrous



Prime Ministers Goh Chok Tong of Singapore, left, Jean Chrétien of Canada and their counterpart, Sitiveni Rabuka of Fiji, right, enjoy their game

scenario of denial of justice", and implied there was a deliberate attempt to block further investigation. New evidence showed that the bombing was a revenge attack by Iran for the shooting down of a civilian Airbus by the Americans six months earlier.

He denied that a trial abroad was impossible under Scottish law: only a small amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill was needed. He called on the Government to listen to President Mandela and admit that previous advice had been wrong. Britain had followed too long in America's footsteps. "To break ranks with the world's sole remaining superpower will be a brave but honest move."

He was speaking just before talks with Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary. Earlier Mr Cook laid out Britain's opposition to trying the two suspects in a third country. Such a trial would not be held under Scottish law and the families of the US victims would never agree. Britain would have to change the law to allow a trial to be held abroad, he said. If it

was in The Netherlands, as has been suggested, the Dutch would too. It would be impossible to have a jury trial as the proceedings could last several months, and 12 Scottish men and women could not be held abroad for that time.

Mr Cook said on BBC's *Breakfast With Frost*: "I am absolutely confident that a Scottish court would provide an impartial trial." He said it was impossible to have a Dutch or international jury meeting under Scottish law.

After his talks with Dr Swire, Mr Cook said the Government saw a settlement of the Lockerbie case as a priority and was willing to consider any solution. But there was a very big question mark over whether any trial conducted abroad and without a jury could be fair.

Mr Cook and Tony Blair discussed Lockerbie with President Mandela on Saturday, and Mr Blair said the South African leader was simply trying to find a way through the impasse.

Leading article, page 21

Spin doctor fails to correct a nasty slice

By Jill Sherman and Shirley English

ALISTAIR Campbell failed to put the right kind of spin on matters yesterday when he looked on the Old Course at St Andrews.

For a start, the Prime Minister's press secretary was substituting for his boss, who had disappointed the crowds at the Sunday retreat of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference by failing to make an appearance on the tennis court. Holidaymakers, the press gallery and St Andrews students had to make do with Mr Campbell, who demonstrated a similar level of control over his golf as his party had done over its difficulties with the single European currency.

Mr Campbell shot a triple

bogey seven at the first hole. His second shot swerved into the Swilken Burn, from which he had to take a penalty drop. In full view of spectators at the Royal and Ancient, he chipped onto the green and three-putted.

Worse was to come on the second hole, where he sliced his tee shot, shanked his second and again took three putts. Shortly after this he cut the round short, coming back down the last three holes.

The 17th hole might have turned out better had Mr Campbell not committed the heinous crime of using his mobile phone: they are banned from the course. On the 18th, the show nearly turned to tragedy when he hit his ball into the crowd, skimming the head of a woman spectator. One golfing enthusiast commented: "He had a swing like a caveman killing his lunch."

Needless to say, Mr Campbell lost his game to his colleague, John Holmes, Mr Blair's principal private secretary. Later, he tried to put a bit of extra spin on his game. "I played really well," he said. "On the third and sixteenth I got a par."

Almost a third of the world's leaders descended on

St Andrews yesterday for a few hours of relaxation before the final day of the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh today. Delegates and their wives travelled 50 miles to the coast in a luxury train for the seven-hour retreat at the Old Course Hotel.

Although aides hauled several golf bags off the train, only a handful of the party, including the Rt Hon Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, and The Hon Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of Singapore, took the opportunity to play on the famous links.

They were joined by Fiji, Trinidad, Antigua and Ghana. The Vice-President of Zambia, Brigadier General Godfrey Mityanda, and His Majesty Mswati III, King of Swaziland, played squash. Mr Blair, dressed casually in sports jacket and navy blue chinos, was seen briefly after lunch walking arm in arm with President Mandela in the hotel grounds and strolling across the course with Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General. He chatted to the public on a brisk walk along West Sands beach, accompanied by a posse of security men and photographers.

Senior Tory MP may join rival party

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE senior Tory backbencher Peter Temple-Morris is considering defecting from his party over William Hague's decision to fight the next election on a campaign to oppose the single currency.

Mr Temple-Morris, MP for Leamington and one of the leading organisers on the Tory party's liberal wing, may resign in spite of apparent assurances from the whips that he would both be able to vote against his own party's line in the Commons and to campaign against it at the election.

He was quoted widely at the weekend as saying: "I am a member of the Conservatives - at the moment."

Mr Temple-Morris has written to his local association saying that Mr Hague's new stance is contrary to his personal statement at the last election. If he defects he is understood to be more likely to go to Labour than the Liberal Democrats. However, he will be listening closely to Gordon Brown's statement today, hoping that it will contain a commitment to work to prepare Britain for monetary union.

Mr Temple-Morris has told friends that the prospect of being treated by the Tories as a kind of "licensed leper" at the next election fills him with dismay. He is understood to be sympathetic to substantial parts of Tony Blair's constitutional reform agenda and other policies.

He is one of several pro-European Tories unhappy at Mr Hague's position, but he is the only one believed to be thinking of quitting.



Temple-Morris on party's liberal wing

Loyalist threat to Dublin diplomats

Loyalist paramilitaries have threatened to kill Irish diplomats working for the Anglo-Irish secretariat unless they leave Northern Ireland by tomorrow night. The warnings were issued as a man was killed by a car bomb on a loyalist estate in what police believe may have been an internal feud. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, brushed aside dissenters at his party's annual conference to win backing for his decision to stay at the Stormont peace talks.

Exam regrades

Examination boards are to be set new targets for regrades to spare hundreds of A-level students delays that sometimes cost them a university place. After an unprecedented number of late appeals, changes will be proposed by Dame Elizabeth Anson, chairman of the Independent Appeals Authority.

Queen to go live

Buckingham Palace and ITV are in discussions for the Queen to broadcast her annual Christmas message live for the first time since 1959. The success of the Queen's live address to the nation on the eve of the Princess of Wales's funeral is said to have influenced the Christmas plan.

Rector backed

The Rev Clifford Williams, found guilty by a church court over an affair, received a strong show of support from parishioners at St Andrew's church in Penarth, North Wales, yesterday. One Beryl Edwards, 65, is seeking legal advice over remarks reported in the press, by the Bishop of Bangor.

Sea cave rescue

A police diver rescued three members of a boating party, including a 13-year-old girl, trapped overnight in a cave off Co Mayo, on Ireland's west coast, but another of the boaters and an amateur diver who had tried to rescue the group died. The survivors, trapped for 20 hours, were treated for hypothermia.

Memorial jump

Bing the dog made a special parachute jump to commemorate the first recorded descent by parachute 200 years ago - also by a dog. Bing, a stuffed and mounted albatross, was strapped to Corporal Kevin Whitehouse. Bing received the Distinguished Service Medal after jumping over Normandy on D-Day, 1944.



Cook insisting on a trial in Scotland

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Blair

Continued from page 1

ship during the present Parliament. Other ministers were being contacted last night and all Cabinet members will see the statement this morning. A senior government source said: "A lot of painful lessons are being learnt from the events of the last few days."

Mr Blair took time out from the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh to say: "Rough times come and go. We have to deal with them but in the end what matters is to face up to the big issues and come up with the right answers. The policy is right. It will be the right policy for Britain and it will be done on economic grounds."

He added: "People must know where they stand, our partners in Europe must know where they stand and business must know where they stand. The statement will be clear, definitive and detailed and people will say to us in a few days that a bad press has a small part to play for strength and stability."

The heavy stress on the Government's decision being taken on economic grounds was intended clearly as further reassurance to the markets and Europe that Labour is not opposed to the single currency on principle.

Mr Brown will back that up today by publishing a lengthy Treasury study on the tests he has outlined for British membership. It is understood to conclude that there is a strong case against early entry because of the potential impact on jobs.

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Academic joke that grew into a legend

Exposed at last: the long-forgotten

British hero who was invented by 'professors behaving badly'

Nick Nuttall unravels the hoax

SOME men rise to greatness, some have it thrust upon them. And one was simply made up by a group of academics, whose joke got a little out of hand.

The name of Joseph Crabtree has been gaining ground for 40 years. Supposedly he was a poet, inventor and intellectual colossus who towered above other luminaries of the late 18th and early 19th century. The fact that this great man did not feature in any of the standard texts was apparently due to his powerful enemies suppressing the truth of his achievements.

And his achievements were many. According to a book put together by 200 academics with links to University College London, he invented the velocipede — an early primitive bicycle — well before the accepted date. He also proposed the first international system of decimalisation, invented soda water and created something known as the Siemens marine engine. Born in

Chipping Sodbury in 1754, he counted the poet Wordsworth, philosopher and poet Goethe, writer Sir Walter Scott, and the scientist William Banks among his circle. Regularly shipwrecked, well travelled and often bankrupt after an error of business judgment, he lived to be 100 and was buried in Haworth with the Brontës.

Or rather, not. For Mr Crabtree never existed. The trouble is that the academics who invented him have been developing his life story for so long at annual dinners, that they had enough material for a doorstopper of a book, which they paid to publish. It is a dense compilation of orations about Crabtree's days which they have been delivering since 1954.

Then they made their mistake. They wanted to share their private joke with a wider audience, so they tried to fool *The Times*.

Negley Harte, secretary of the Crabtree Foundation and an historian at University



Man who never was — portrait of Crabtree

College London, followed up a news story that a sketch of a bicycle attributed to Leonardo da Vinci was in fact a 1960s doodle. He said: "I have read with interest your piece in *The Times*. It seems likely you are not familiar with the light thrown on the matter in the 1992 Crabtree oration. You may, after perusing Crabtree volume, want to make some further reference in print."

Professor Peter Armour of Royal Holloway College, University of London, and a purported authority on Crabtree's Italian period, attributed a Leonardo bicycle

sketch to Crabtree, and said it was hoped that the new book and reviews in a newspaper such as *The Times* would allow Crabtree to finally receive some public recognition.

This would "bring a few smiles to people's faces", he said. The reputation of the great man had been damaged by him "gathering a lot of powerful enemies — it is a big problem for the foundation. Here is this virtually forgotten British poet and polymath who has never been fully recognised. Yet we believe he was a bigger genius than Leonardo da Vinci. He is a forgotten icon of scholarship."

The truth was admitted by Lord McNally, Prime Minister James Callaghan's former press spokesman, a member of the foundation and graduate of UCL. "It is the longest running academic joke — a lot of professors behaving badly."

He was invited to join the foundation, set up by the late Sir James Sutherland, ten years ago. Other members are said to include Reginald Jones, assistant director of Intelligence (Science) at the Air Ministry during the Second World War, Sir Derek Roberts, provost of UCL, and, Desmond Lynam, the broadcaster.

"If you read the book, you realise that there has been more research into Crabtree than in the average PhD thesis. The spoof contains just enough credibility to work," Lord McNally said. *The Times* was "as ever on the ball" yet this was unlikely to be the last word on the myth.

Professor Armour insisted: "He is not made up. I have to maintain this. I have spent so long doing research."



The young Joseph Crabtree and the bicycle that he invented ahead of its time: his life and work were originally said to have been suppressed by his enemies

Motorists should be tested every few years, say MEPs

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND TIM JONES

A GROUP of Euro-MEPs has proposed that all motorists be forced to retake their driving test every five or ten years.

The MEPs believe that the refresher tests would help to save some of the 45,000 lives lost on roads in the European Union each year.

Mark Watts, a Labour member of the European Parliament's transport committee, which came up with the idea, said: "It does seem strange that you can be granted a licence of up to 50 years to drive a vehicle which can kill, regardless of your standard of

driving. Most accidents are the result of human error. To save lives we must take tough decisions."

Members of the committee are concerned about the upsurge of "road rage" offences and believe that retests could be used to identify and ban aggressive drivers.

Their proposal was welcomed by Dave Rogers, road safety adviser at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. He said: "Ideally, we need a test which would spot the people who train to 'perform' on the day and then

forget all about it later. Retests might at least help them to correct bad habits which have built up over the years."

But Rebecca Rees of the AA said implementation of the plan would be a bureaucratic nightmare, requiring 2.5 million retests a year. She said: "It's not really addressing the people who cause the majority of road accidents, who are youngsters. Most drivers in the UK are safe drivers. To make everybody take a driving test every ten years would have no real safety benefit."

Neil Kinnock, the Transport

Commissioner, is keen to improve road safety and has called for a reduction in Britain's drink-driving limit. But when asked about the driving test proposal, a spokesman for Mr Kinnock said: "This is a matter for individual member states."

The Department of Transport said that it had no plans to introduce regular retests. Recent changes in the law in Britain mean that drivers face a retest if they accumulate six penalty points within two years of gaining their licence.



SANTA'S STAMP OF APPROVAL

Santa has a cracking time on this year's Christmas stamps, pulling crackers, stuffing them down the chimney, even riding one across the night sky. The Royal Mail is taking the opportunity to celebrate 150

years of the traditional cracker with five stamps that go on sale today. Each features Santa and the invention of a young confectioner, Tom Smith, who developed crackers as a novel way to wrap his products.

Traitor killed his lover by mistake

BY PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

JOHN AMERY, the pro-Nazi traitor hanged in 1945 for trying to recruit British prisoners of war into a brigade to fight the Russians, descended into alcoholism after accidentally killing his girlfriend in the middle of the war, according to a book written by a former Nazi diplomat.

Amery, the son of Leo Amery, who was Secretary of State for India during the war and one of the Prime Minister's closest confidants, spent the war in Nazi-occupied Europe railing against the Soviet Union. He was prized by the Nazis who would present him at rallies as the son of one of Churchill's ministers.

He was captured in northern Italy in 1945 and returned to Britain. Along with William Joyce, who, as Lord Haw-Haw, broadcast Nazi propaganda from Berlin, he was sentenced and hanged at Wandsworth prison.

The accusation that Amery accidentally killed his girlfriend comes in a book by Reinhard Spitzy, published in West Germany in 1986, and published for the first time in this country, in English, today. It had not appeared in Britain before because many British publishers felt that the book, *How We Squandered the Reich*, reeked of anti-Semitism.

Spitzy, who was born into an aristocratic Austrian family, moved in high social circles in Britain when he worked as an assistant to Joachim von Ribbentrop, the German ambassador sent to London by the Nazis. He became engaged to a member of a West Country landowning family, although he never married her.

He was a member of the German delegation at the Munich conference of 1938 but claims to have become disillusioned with Hitler when he realised that the Führer was ready to engage in all-out war to fulfil his aims.

Spitzy spent the war working with the Abwehr, the German counter-intelligence unit. He disappeared to South America after the war, returning to Austria in 1957.

He ran into Amery on a train to Paris soon after the Englishman fell in with the Nazis in 1942. Spitzy describes him as "a real catch in propaganda terms... frail, intelligent and typically English". Amery, who had separated from his first wife, was living in France at the time with a woman who was partly gypsy. Spitzy does not give the name of the woman. He met the couple one more time, but then did not see either of them until a party at the Foreign Press Club in Berlin in early

1944, where Amery was on his own and "paralytic".

Spitzy asked the guard looking after Amery why the Nazis' great propaganda tool was in such a state, and where his friend was. The guard took Spitzy to one side and told him that Amery had "taken more and more to the bottle" and that he was "plagued by dark depressions" about the worsening war situation.

The guard recounted, Spitzy writes, that a few weeks earlier, Amery and the woman had returned after a drunken night out and, after she had asked him for a headache pill, Amery "had mistakenly given her one of the poison capsules which he carried with him at all times to ensure a quick and relatively painless death in the event of his being abducted."

"When Amery woke up late the following morning and realised he had tried to rouse his beloved, believing her to be in a deep sleep, she was already dead and cold."

"Since that morning it was as if Amery's whole world had collapsed. He was no longer capable of anything and had turned totally to drink."

When Amery was finally caught by the Allies, the psychiatrists who examined him in his cell found that he was mentally ill.

Dr Piers Brendon, keeper of the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College, Cambridge, who has seen an advance copy of the book, said yesterday: "It is a shocking story — and came as a real surprise to me. Spitzy is an old Nazi and is highly tendentious in many respects. But I don't think he had any particular axe to grind against Amery and therefore I think the account is true."

□ *How We Squandered the Reich* is published by Michael Russell, £19.95.



Amery: story told in former Nazi's book

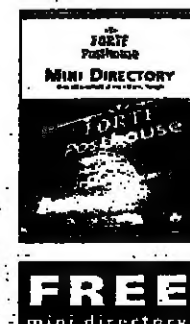
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curve brakes late and takes the inside line, left, but Schumacher takes

Multiple cot deaths 'may be result of abuse'

Doctor says video surveillance may be only way of investigating families, reports Mark Henderson

FAMILIES where more than one child dies in a cot death or suffers an unexplained serious illness should be closely monitored for cases of severe child abuse, according to research published today by doctors who videotaped suspected abusers with their children.

The study, led by the cot death expert Professor David Southall of the North Staffordshire Hospital in Stoke-on-Trent, found that babies who mysteriously fell ill or died from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) were sometimes the victims of sadistic violence by parents who did not fit the classic profile of a child abuser and evaded detection by doctors and social workers.

Of 39 suspected abusers filmed after their children were admitted to hospital, usually with breathing difficulties, 34 tried to harm their children when left alone. Five later admitted killing siblings of the children previously thought to have died of natural causes.

Four mothers admitted suffocating eight babies thought to have died of SIDS and another confessed to poisoning her daughter with salt. The child's death had been attributed to gastro-enteritis.

The deaths of three other siblings thought to have died of SIDS are being investigated and 34 parents have been convicted of offences ranging from assault to murder. All but one of the children were taken into care.

Parents were filmed trying to suffocate their children or poison them with disinfectants. One mother deliberately broke her three-month-old daughter's arm moments after being left alone and another tried to ram a toothbrush down her son's throat before trying to poison him.

The report emphasised that such abuse often went undetected because it was "inflicted

by severely disturbed, deceitful but plausible parents" who convinced social workers and doctors they were not a threat to their children.

Many of the abusers are thought to suffer from Munchausen's syndrome by proxy, a psychiatric disorder whose victims inflict injury on others to draw attention to themselves. The nurse Beverly Allitt, who murdered four children in her care at Grantham and Kesteven General Hospital, suffered from the disorder.

Dr Keith Prowse, medical director of the North Staffordshire Hospital Trust, said the research showed child abuse was probably underestimated as a cause of cot death. "Many cot deaths are natural but

in casualty but with unexplained life-threatening illnesses."

Professor Southall recommends covert video surveillance as the only effective way of investigating families in which there have been suspicious infant deaths or illnesses.

Professor Southall's team carried out the study at the Royal Brompton Hospital in London and the North Staffordshire Hospital between 1986 and 1994. His work has often been controversial, with social workers and paediatricians accusing him of trying to entrap parents, using children as bait at considerable risk.

Colin Morley, a consultant paediatrician at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, said: "If you suspected a man of sexually abusing a child you would not put him in a room alone with the girl and see what happened. Some of these children could have been protected earlier."

A spokesman for the North Staffordshire Hospital said parents were always monitored by two observers while alone with children and that a nurse would enter the child's room and police would be informed if an assault took place.

The report will be published tomorrow at a press conference in Stoke-on-Trent, and will also appear next week in *Pediatrics*, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. *Pediatrics* will apologise in the issue for a 1972 article studying the deaths of several infants in a New York family which helped to create a multimillion-dollar market for monitoring devices. The mother in the case, later confessed to killing five of her children.

The issue will also carry findings indicating suspicious circumstances in a third of "near miss" SIDS cases in a Massachusetts hospital.



Southall: accused of trying to entrap parents

when you see multiple cot deaths or near misses in a family you have to ask the question," he said yesterday.

"There are parents who claim to be caring and in fact dash out concealed and sadistic abuse which can be very difficult to detect. The children do not end up black and blue



The doctor's car after it was hoisted into the air with a tractor and smashed over a 200ft drop

Grab and smash as sports car goes flying

IT WAS a doctor's new MG sports car. Yesterday it had been recovered as a mangled heap after being pushed over a 200ft cliff when a man allegedly went berserk with a tractor.

A total of eight vehicles were damaged in the incident at a farm near Northcott Mouth Beach at Bude, Cornwall. Police had found the man setting fire to hay on the cliff top. He turned the tractor on them, chasing squad cars across a field and crashing into vehicles left by anglers.

Dr Neil Owens, of St Lawrence's psychiatric hospital at Bodmin, and a social worker tried to reason with the 34-year-old man, but he used the tractor equipped with front-loading spikes to grab the MG in the air and tip it over the cliff.

The man, an unemployed farmer's son, was finally subdued with CS gas. A police spokesman said he had been detained under the Mental Health Act. An uncle of the man said: "He is a nice enough lad, but he suddenly he gets into these terrible fits of temper."

Drugs advice 'will cost millions'

GPs say NHS committee's recommendations on cholesterol-lowering treatment endanger moves to control costs. Nigel Hawkes reports

HEALTH authorities struggling to make ends meet say they have been given advice by an NHS committee that could add hundreds of millions of pounds to their bills.

If fully implemented, the Standing Medical Advisory Committee's advice on prescribing "statins", cholesterol-lowering drugs, issued in August, would cost £800 million a year. No additional money has been made available. The potential cost is far greater than the £300 million recently extracted from the Treasury by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, to help the NHS to survive the winter.

Health authorities say the advice threatens their attempts to control soaring drug costs. "It was neither timely, effective, nor desirable," Mike Marchmont, chief executive of Warwickshire Health Authority, said. "The committee didn't do a proper analysis, failed to present the evidence and jeopardised the treatment of high-risk patients who really get the greatest benefits from these drugs."

The committee recommends pre-

scribing the drugs to one in 12 of the population between the ages of 35 and 69 — roughly 1.7 million people. The cost depends on which of the five statins available is prescribed. The most expensive, pravastatin, made by Squibb, costs nearly £750 a year per patient at the highest dose rate.

Mr Marchmont and colleagues wrote in the *British Medical Journal* earlier this month that following the advice, using the cheaper Simvastatin made by Merck, Sharp and Dohme, would cost the authority £8 million a year. "We are a typical authority and our patients represent 1 per cent of the whole population. So guessing a total of £800 million for the whole country would not be far out."

Nick Freemantle, of the Centre for

sensible way to carry out health policy. "We had doctors with their heads in their hands," he says. "They had been desperately trying to get the drug budget into balance when along came this advice and wrecked their efforts."

Dr Peter Enoch, a GP from Ilkerton, Derbyshire, who chairs the committee, said he was "aggrieved" at the criticism, as his group's intention was not to encourage but to limit the prescribing of statins. "We were concerned that statins were likely to 'take off' at an alarming rate, with little advice available to counter that of the drug companies. We were trying to discourage them from being used indiscriminately. Our advice is that if the funds are available, then this is the way to go about using the drugs."

"GPs should try other things first — diet, exercise, stopping smoking — and if that fails, then we outline these priority groups who should get the drugs," Dr Enoch suggests. "The committee's critics have failed to read the accompanying documents, which make this clear."

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Officer had just finished training for a task she did with total equality with her male colleagues

Policewoman took off vest to do job better

WPC Mackay knew the risks of the emergency call.
report Michael Horsnell and Stewart Tendler

WPC NINA MACKAY knew she was facing danger as she and her colleagues swung into Arthingworth Road in Stratford, East London, in their shielded personnel carrier. They were there to raid a flat occupied by a man in breach of his bail conditions.

The territorial support unit, equipped with body armour, CS gas spray and riot shields, is called in when officers need the back-up of specialist teams used to operating in dangerous situations.

At 8.20pm on Friday uniformed police called for assistance from 3 Area territorial support group in Bow. WPC Mackay had been attached to the unit for a year. The previous day she had completed training in the use of a hand-held hydraulic ram used to smash down doors during raids on the homes of suspects.

The units operate a policy of complete equality and women are neither encouraged nor discouraged to join teams that are in the front line.

WPC Mackay's team arrived inside the flat shortly after 8.30pm. Wearing heavy body armour, crash helmets and armed with riot shields,

A chief constable suspended from duty over "serious" allegations of misconduct has been ordered to stay away from his office for four months until the investigation is completed. Francis Wilkinson, 50, who heads the Gwent force in South Wales, is at the centre of complaints over the handling of a £40 speeding ticket issued to a local county councillor and the awarding of contracts. The allegations against him were made by his deputy and an assistant chief constable. Mr Wilkinson faces dismissal if the inquiry rules that he has abused his position.

They moved to the front door of the flat. At 9.05pm WPC Mackay, wearing goggles and thick gloves, began to operate the hydraulic ram, known as the Enforcer. But because her body armour prevented her getting a good swing on the ram, she stopped for a moment and removed it.

Within minutes of resuming her work, the door to the flat crashed down. What happened

next is unclear, but normally the ram operator stands aside to allow other officers to rush forward and detain the suspect. However, the ram operator can be in danger if the ram knocks the door flat, allowing a suspect to rush forward and strike an officer.

As the door was smashed open, WPC Mackay received stab wounds in the abdomen. She collapsed on the floor and while some officers detained the suspect others gave her first aid.

They carried her to a nearby police car which took her to Newham General Hospital where surgeons fought for more than an hour to save her life before she died at 10.25pm.

In Arthingworth Street, floral tributes to the murdered policewoman built up throughout the weekend. Locals said that Magdi Elgizouli, the 30-year-old Somali immigrant charged with her murder, was frequently seen in the area carrying bottles of alcohol.

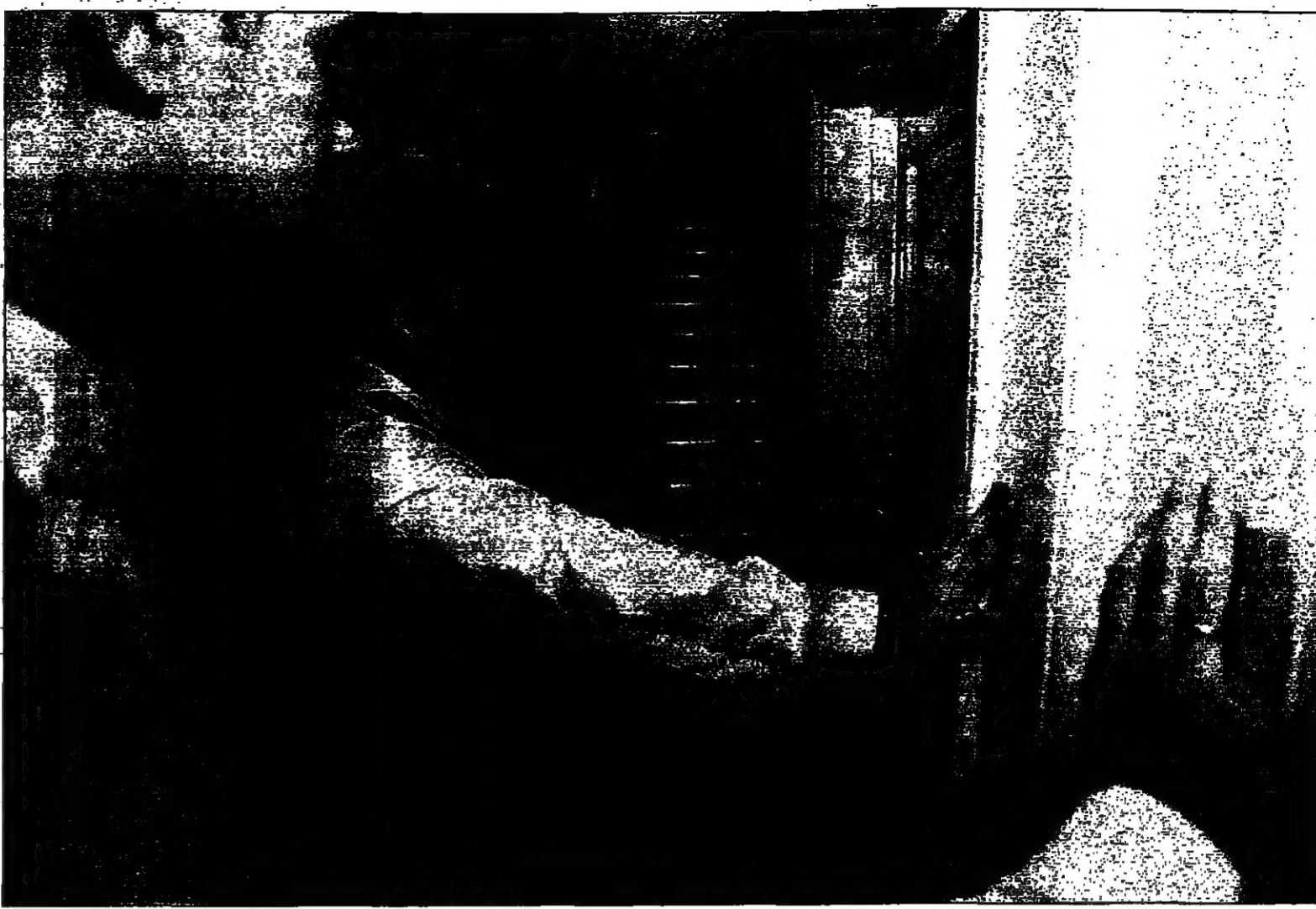
Melodie Dunbar, 28, who lives almost opposite the flat where WPC Mackay was stabbed, said: "He was always walking past drunk. On one occasion he had to get a

worker at a building site next to where he was staying to retrieve a bottle of brandy that he had somehow left there. Another night he was standing outside the flat unable to get in for about four hours, banging on the door, and someone downstairs threw something at him."

The Guinness Trust building where the suspect was staying with a friend is run by Newham Health Authority for people with disabilities hoping to reintegrate into society.

Other residents said they were angered and alarmed at how "care in the community" patients are housed in first-floor flats above accommodation for severely handicapped people requiring 24-hour attention and opposite homes for elderly people requiring warden care.

Mike Cohen, chief executive of the Guinness Trust, said checks were in place to monitor tenants' behaviour and their guests. He said that the health authority aimed to give tenants as much independence as possible because of the nature of the project.



Officers raiding suspects' homes need protection that is not too bulky to stop them working quickly and effectively, says the Police Federation

Forces search for wearable armour that can turn knife and stop bullets

BY RICHARD FORD

THE death of Nina Mackay highlights the difficulty the police have had in providing officers with flexible and comfortable body armour.

Many forces have heavy-duty armour that can be worn at specific incidents including sieges but the Police Federation has been demanding equipment that can be worn by officers throughout an eight-hour shift.

As a member of a Territorial Support Squad, a frontline group of officers who support colleagues on dangerous operations, she would have had access to heavy-duty body armour worn outside her uniform. Her unit would also have been equipped with Nato helmets, shields and CS spray.

Officers have complained that the armour weighs too much, is cumbersome and restricts their ability to move quickly in dangerous situations.

There are two different types of armour. One provides protection against knives, weighs about ten pounds and is highly rigid. Another provides protection against both

bullets and knives and is slightly more flexible.

It was not clear yesterday which bit of heavy body armour WPC Mackay was wearing when she arrived at the flat in Stratford, east London. Members of the Police Federation were in no doubt that she had removed it because it would have been too cumbersome for her to operate the ram effectively. Mike Ben-

nett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation, said last night: "Wearing heavy armour and trying to operate this kind of equipment, especially in confined spaces, is very difficult. It restricts an officer's movement."

In an attempt to meet officers' complaints about the weight of the heavy armour, and their reluctance to wear it over uniforms, police forces

going through." WPC Fletcher was killed by a burst of automatic gunfire when on crowd control at a protest outside the Libyan Embassy.

Mrs Fletcher was speaking from her home in the village of Semley on the Wiltshire border with Dorset. With her husband, Tim, also 64, she attended morning service at St Catherine's at nearby Sedgill, where the Rev Peter Ridley spoke of supporting prayers for police officers throughout Britain.

"They seemed in the same mould. It is very sad and devastating for the family. We know what they are

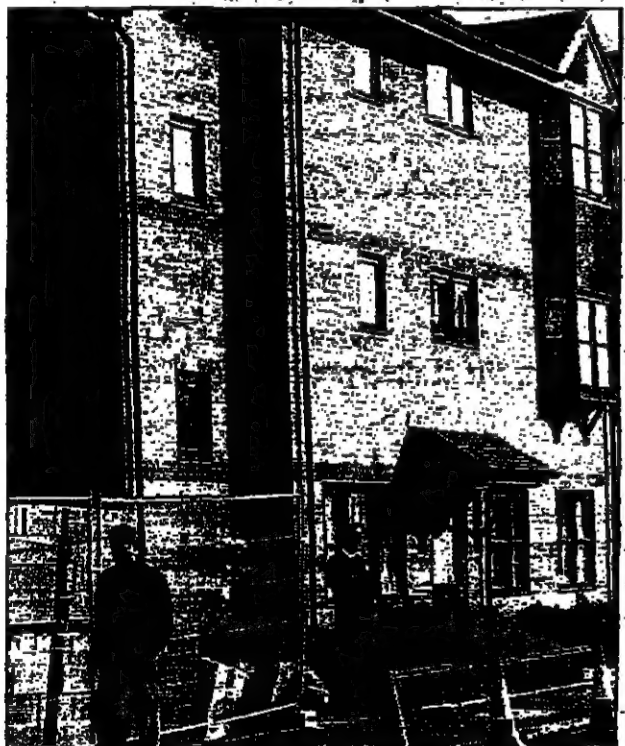


been issued with one. The Metvest, manufactured in Holland, weighs 3lb and costs £200 but it is not compulsory for officers to wear it. The vest is made of ceramic plating and layer upon layer of a specially-designed material called Kevlar, developed by Lycra manufacturers DuPont.

The Metvest is designed to protect against knife thrusts equivalent to a blade travelling at up to 6 metres a second and offers protection against ammunition from revolvers and automatic handguns. It protects an officer's entire chest and back against attack.

Although more flexible than heavy armour, officers have complained that it makes them sweat heavily, and the first batch prepared for women was found to have a design fault in the stitching around the bust. The fault meant that the vest did not provide full protection from a knife attack and Scotland Yard is to start exchanging them on November 3.

The Metropolitan police force hoped to be able to profit from the design by selling to other forces nationally and internationally.



Floral tributes outside the murder scene yesterday

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A flow of good ideas.

Sale up

Shops fail to take stock of ethical trading

Murphy's Law

What's new

What's new

What's new

Sale uncovers Boleyn book

Dalya Alberge on a poignant inscription left by the doomed love of Henry VIII

A BOOK of hours, signed and inscribed by Anne Boleyn, has been discovered among a collection of books the owner wanted to see if they were worth selling.

The book, containing the prayers and offices of the canonical hours, dates from the 15th century. Anne is believed to have written it in the 1520s, when King Henry VIII was courting her and trying to divorce Catherine of Aragon.

Kay Sutton, manuscript consultant to Christie's book department, said that when she was shown the book, "I had to sit down. It's not been known before. One of Christie's clients in Europe asked us to value some books with a view to whether they were sufficiently interesting to offer for sale. They hadn't realised the significance of this one. When we saw it we were bowled over."

She added: "While it is not unusual to find ownership notes or 'inscriptions' in personal prayerbooks, it would be hard to find one more poignant than the words written by Anne Boleyn beneath the miniature of the Last Judgment." Under an in-



The inscription and signature of Anne Boleyn on the page depicting the Last Judgment

age of Christ on a rainbow ready to judge the dead arising from the ground, she wrote: "Le temps viendra" — the time will come.

Ms Sutton said: "Who knows what she meant by that? But it's one of these things you find your mind running away with." She believes it was written before Anne married, after her period in France. "Anne was fluent in French. Some of the love letters between her and Henry VIII

were in French. One is tempted to think that this was not just a pious reminder of her eventual death, since this was the period when Henry was pursuing her and trying to divorce Catherine of Aragon. It was during this period when, as a 'fresh young damsel', her wit and grace first beguiled the King."

The manuscript is expected to fetch around £300,000 on November 26. Although Anne's hand appears on two other

books of hours, those examples pale against this one. Ms Sutton said: "Another is a printed book in Hever Castle, her family home in Kent, where she signed her name. But it had been clipped by a careless binder, so the signature isn't intact in the way it is here."

In the British Library is a book of hours which she signed in one margin and Henry VIII in another. But, presumably after her death and fall from

favour, her name was entirely removed and attempts made to erase her inscription from the page. This manuscript is the only book known where her personal annotation survives intact."

The manuscript is a particularly lavish example. It was made in Bruges for an English owner during the middle of the 15th century, perhaps by the group known only as the Masters of the Gold Scroll. Devotional texts are accompanied by jewels of miniature.

"The book is likely to have been in England for many years before Anne wrote in it," Ms Sutton said. "It remained there for at least several decades after her death."

The book was later owned by George, Lord Cobham, one of the peers who tried Anne in 1536 and found her guilty of adultery and treason. She was beheaded on May 19; a day later, Henry was betrothed to Jane Seymour. How the book found its way into Lord Cobham's possession is unclear. It also bears the inscription of Elisabeth Seymour, who is thought to have been related to Jane.



The manuscript features devotional texts and colourful miniatures

Shops fail to take stock of ethical trading

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

SUPERMARKETS have done little to fulfil a promise to ensure they are trading ethically, despite drawing up guidelines, a report by Christian Aid claims today.

While many of the leading ten chains, which have a combined annual turnover of £52 billion, have agreed to a set of principles aimed at avoiding exploitation of Third World workers, most have not implemented any policies. The worst offender, the charity claims, is Marks & Spencer, which has refused to have anything to do with the campaign. Tesco, Sainsbury and Safeway have made the best start to the ethical challenge.

Last year the charity challenged the main supermarkets to improve conditions for workers in Third World countries. Their research found women poisoned by pesticides on grape plantations, workers who pick fruit earning poverty wages, and people packed into tiny, squalid housing on tea plantations.

A year on, six out of ten supermarkets have adopted a new code of conduct and agreed in principle to external verification. But none has reached the stage where its

policies were making a difference overseas, the report says.

Sainsbury, Safeway, Waitrose and Co-op have joined the Ethical Trading initiative to look at the conditions of workers overseas. Marks & Spencer, Morrisons and Somerfield, however, all declined to take part in the survey, saying they had their own standards.

Andrew Sims, for Christian Aid, said it was time to put theory into practice. "There is definitely a move forward and it shows that consumers can make a difference but all the supermarkets have yet to face the challenge of turning words into real improvements for workers on the ground," he said.

"We want an industry-wide common approach outlining basic conditions so that when the common man walks off the street into a supermarket they can be confident that the goods they are buying have not been imported by exploitation."

Marks & Spencer said it had not taken part in the Christian Aid survey but had its own ethical guidelines. "We employ a team of over 50 people to check what's happening with our suppliers."



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Au pair faces her toughest day in court

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
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LOUISE WOODWARD, the 19-year-old British au pair charged with murdering a baby in her care, can today expect the most gruelling hours of her trial when the prosecution subjects her to its final cross-examination.

The trial is expected to conclude today, with the prosecutor, Gerard Leone, asking Miss Woodward: did she shake, slam or in any way harm eight-month-old Matthew Eappen? In response to questions last week from Andrew Good, her defence attorney, Miss Woodward, from Cheshire, has denied that she ever treated Matthew violently. After her kindly treatment by Mr Good, Mr Leone is expected to go for the jugular.

The jury will hear concluding arguments from the prosecution and the defence, before receiving instructions from Judge Miller B. Zobel. A verdict could come as early as tomorrow morning.

Public opinion in the Boston area, previously hostile to Miss Woodward, has swung behind her. As the trial began, "She did it" was the common refrain. After Miss Woodward's initial testimony, which was powerful and moving — these certainties have undergone a seismic shift.

A young woman in a bar summed up the view of many: "I feel pretty ashamed of myself. I'm a philosophy student and I've got to question the way I behaved with crowd."

A research student from Canada who had watched Miss Woodward testify said her opinion had swung from an assumption of guilt to questioning how such a charge could have been brought. "There are just so many doubts."

There is embarrassment that an American town might have ganged up unfairly on a callow girl from Britain. "She would have been lynched around here," said a barman. A customer muttered that everyone had been "wrong about that kid". There is, of course, also great sympathy for the other "kid" — the dead child.



Fighting on the beaches: Campbell Voullaire at the point where the sea stormed ashore. English Nature has abandoned the beachhead

The day the tide came in to stay

Nature chiefs who abandoned flooded land have met a storm of disapproval, Simon de Bruxelles reports

THE retreat has been sounded over a little bit of England after the forces of authority decided not to fight the force of nature. The decision to allow the sea to invade ancient pastures has outraged a tiny community.

For centuries, the people of Porlock have maintained a long shingle bank which acts as a natural barrier on the north Cornish coast. When a gap formed, they plugged it to prevent the salt water destroying low-lying fields. In 1990, the area was designated as a site of special scientific interest: its unique collection of flora and fauna includes more than 40 species of spider.

Then the village, which featured in *Lorna Doone*, was struck by disaster last year. One of the most violent storms to hit the Bristol Channel this century

breached the bank, allowing the sea to inundate fields beyond. A permanent lagoon formed and the rare plants and reed beds died in the saline waters. Local residents expected that approval of works to restore the shingle bank would be a formality.

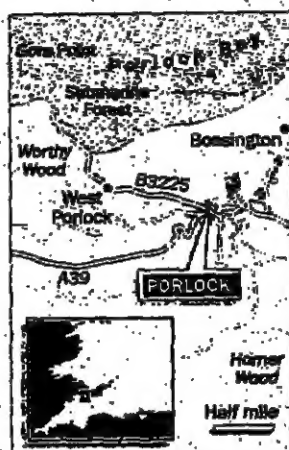
Instead, English Nature and the Environment Agency have said that nature should be allowed to take its course. The coastal path has been diverted inland and an 18th-century system of culverts, which kept out the sea but allowed fresh water to drain away, has been partially demolished. English Nature hopes the sea will create a salt marsh which will attract many species of birds.

Porlock's residents include the novelist Margaret Drabble and her husband, the biographer Michael Hobroyd. Opponents of the

retreat are being led into battle by a former RAF staff officer. Every day Campbell Voullaire, 76, surveys the shingle bank through his Zeiss field glasses. "In the past six weeks alone the breach has enlarged considerably," he said. "The shingle lies on a layer of clay and each time the tide retreats, the water rushes out like a miniature Niagara, scouring a larger hole."

"We have been pressing for a year to have it restored. Each week that passes means the hill will be bigger and the task more difficult. The trouble is that quangos like English Nature are not democratically accountable. It is very un-British that unelected officials should be allowed to decide what happens to our countryside."

Joan Lorraine, owner of Greencombe, one of Som-



water marks, as elsewhere along the coast. Mike Edgington, the conservation officer responsible for Porlock, said: "In philosophical terms, this is one of the hardest decisions we have had to make. Usually our job is fairly clear: it is to preserve what is already there. But coastal systems are not static and we hope that nature will replace what we have with something better."

The ridge had been patched up for many years but, from the point of view of coastal management, that was not a sensible course. After a similar breach was repaired in 1990, officers agreed that sooner or later the sea was going to have its way unless a large amount of money was spent, and that no further steps should be taken to stop it. We have made our judgment. We don't know what will happen. Some experts even believe the ridge may well reform a little behind its present position."

Rail crash lawyers claim compensation for all

LAWYERS acting for victims of last month's Southall train crash are demanding compensation for all passengers on the train.

More than 100 claims for compensation are expected to be filed after the crash, in which seven people died. The

insurers of Great Western, the operator of the Swanscombe-London train, were yesterday urged to agree a standard payment, possibly £5,000, for all passengers, thought to exceed 170. Lawyers claim that they all suffered physical or psychological damage.

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Blair urged to spell out 'great evil of abortion'

By Ian Murray, Ruth Gledhill and Mark Henderson

THE Archbishop of Westminster urged the Prime Minister yesterday to help to change the hearts and minds of those who doubt that abortion is a great evil.

Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, particularly criticised sections of the Labour Party for being pro-abortion. He spoke out after joining one of 78 human chains formed to protest on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the Abortion Act. "My message to Tony Blair would be 'You are a man of integrity, you are an honest man, and you see things clearly,'" Cardinal Hume said. "I would have thought you should give leadership within your party, and try to convince them that abortion is wrong and that we ought, as a nation, to do something about it."

Referring to the defenders of abortion in the Labour Party, Cardinal Hume said: "I think that it is generally agreed that we can't expect very much from this particular Parliament and I think that is very sad. Abortion is wrong, whether it's done in the backstreet or in a clinic. The point of the debate is different to decide at which moment human life begins. I'm quite convinced, as many people are, that at the moment of conception there is human life. It is given as an axiom that you must never take innocent human life."

Nevertheless, he said he did not think it possible to get the Abortion Act repealed as the present Parliament was very pro-abortion. "We have to work to change minds and hearts so people come to realise that abortion is a great evil, just as it was very slowly people came to realise that slavery was a great evil. Slavery was generally accepted. Now no one would want to go back to it."

In a pastoral letter, read out at all masses in the Westminster diocese, the cardinal said: "It is a grave scandal that since 1967 nearly five million abortions have taken place. As a nation we should all hang our heads in shame."

The new intake of MPs is being lobbied hard by campaigners both for and against abortion to find someone prepared to bring in a Private Member's Bill to change the present law. The anti-abortionists want the Act repealed. Those in favour want it to be widened to allow abortion on demand and they want the operation available everywhere under the National Health Service.

More than 177,000 abortions were carried out in England and Wales last year, equivalent to 13 for every 1,000 women. The Brook Advisory Centres, which offer sex advice to young people, estimate that 10 per cent of teenage girls have a termination before the age of 20. The Abortion Law Reform Society believes that one woman in four has one at some stage in her life.



Cardinal Hume in London, where 3,500 anti-abortion protesters held a "silent walk of witness" yesterday

HOW THE LAW HAS EVOLVED

- 1961: Offences Against the Person Act makes it illegal to induce an abortion.
- 1967: The Abortion Law Reform Association is formed with the goal of changing the law to allow doctors to perform safe abortions.
- 1968: Dr Alec Bourne is acquitted after inviting police to prosecute him for abortion on a 14-year-old rape victim. This establishes case law allowing abortions to protect a patient's health.
- 1966: MP David Steel introduces a Private Member's Bill to legalise abortion if two doctors agree pregnancy would put a mother's health at risk, or if there is a serious risk of handicap to the child.
- 1967: the Abortion Act becomes law.
- 1968: the Act comes into effect on April 27.
- 1974: the Lane Committee is set up to review the Act. It suggests an upper limit of 24 weeks.
- 1990: Human Fertilization and Embryology Act confirms upper time limit of 24 weeks in law.

Opponents of 30 years ago believe they were right

By Mark Henderson

THE leading parliamentary campaigners for and against the 1967 Abortion Act still believe they were right 30 years ago and point to developments since the Act to back their positions.

David Steel, now Lord Steel of Aikwood, the Liberal MP who introduced the Private Member's

Bill in March 1966, said yesterday that he thought the Act remained the most balanced piece of abortion legislation in Europe. "The law as it stands strikes a balance between the right of the foetus to life and of the woman to abundant life," he said.

"You will find critics on both sides of the law wanting to make it easier or harder to get an abortion but my advice would be to leave well alone."

He said the Act had removed "the scourge of criminal abortions and self-induced abortions" and statistics indicated that Britain had a relatively low rate of abortion.

"Critics who point to five million abortions saying it is too many never note that our rate is lower than Roman Catholic France, where there is a woman's right to choose until 12 weeks, and half that of the

USA, where it is a far more controversial issue."

He said the Bill, which was the seventh attempt to reform the abortion law, had been passed only because of an abnormally long parliamentary session after the 1966 general election.

The Roman Catholic Conservative MP Norman St John-Stevens, now Lord St John of Fawsley, said

he had organised opposition to the legislation in Parliament after an encounter with Enoch Powell.

"I remember the second reading was passed very comfortably by nearly 200 votes and as I was going through the no lobby Enoch Powell turned to me and said, 'Where are the Romans?'" he said.

"So it fell to me to organise the Romans, and later in the year the

Romans appeared on the scene." He said the Act had fulfilled his fears at the time and had had a damaging effect on society.

"I felt it would lead to abortion on demand and I think developments have shown these fears were entirely justified. If anything I feel more strongly about it now than I did then. All the things we prophesied about abortion have come true."

McAleese heads for tarnished triumph in Dublin

By Martin Fletcher and Audrey Magee

MARY McALEESE looks set to become Ireland's first northern president on Thursday, but it will be a joyless victory.

The election has been one of the most poisonous in the Republic's history and Dr McAleese's hopes of "building bridges" to Ulster Unionists have been reduced to rubble.

Weekend polls for two Dublin newspapers gave Dr McAleese, the ruling Fianna Fail party's candidate, leads of 13 and 9 per cent over Fine Gael's Mary Banotti, despite the recent furore over her alleged Sinn Féin sympathies. The other three candidates — the singer Dana (Rosemary Brown), Labour's Aili Roche and the maverick independent Derek Nally — trailed far behind.

Dana's effort will almost certainly end in defeat on Thursday, but her campaign has not been futile. She alone among the candidates has expressed forthright views and she has tweaked more than a few Roman Catholic consciences. The 46-year-old singer has rallied those who oppose the Dublin "liberal agenda" that has brought divorce, contraception, homosexuality and abortion (in very restricted circumstances) to this most Catholic of European countries.

This was supposed to be a non-political election, but that all changed with the leaking of three Department of Foreign Affairs documents suggesting that Dr McAleese, a Catholic nationalist from Belfast, supported Sinn Féin.

Dr McAleese issued strong denials and weathered the storm — she appears actually to have gained support as a victim of dirty tricks — but the longer term damage is substantial. "Building Bridges" was her campaign slogan, but she could well prove the most divisive of Ireland's eight presidents.





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Lords debate end of the peer show

Historic ceremonies need cutting, says Labour, but the traditionalists will today challenge the motives for change. James Landale reports

FOR some it is sublime, for others it is ridiculous. Today the ermine-pagant of the House of Lords faces a trimming, as peers are urged to overhaul the 370-year-old introduction ceremony for new members.

Lord Richard, leader of the Government in the Lords, will tell the House that the ceremony takes up too much time and has become outdated. A chief target is the practice of new peers having to sit, stand, doff their hats, bow, and sit three times in succession.

The ceremony takes place at the beginning of parliamentary business at 2.30pm, and lasts an average of 11 minutes.



James I: introduced ceremony used today

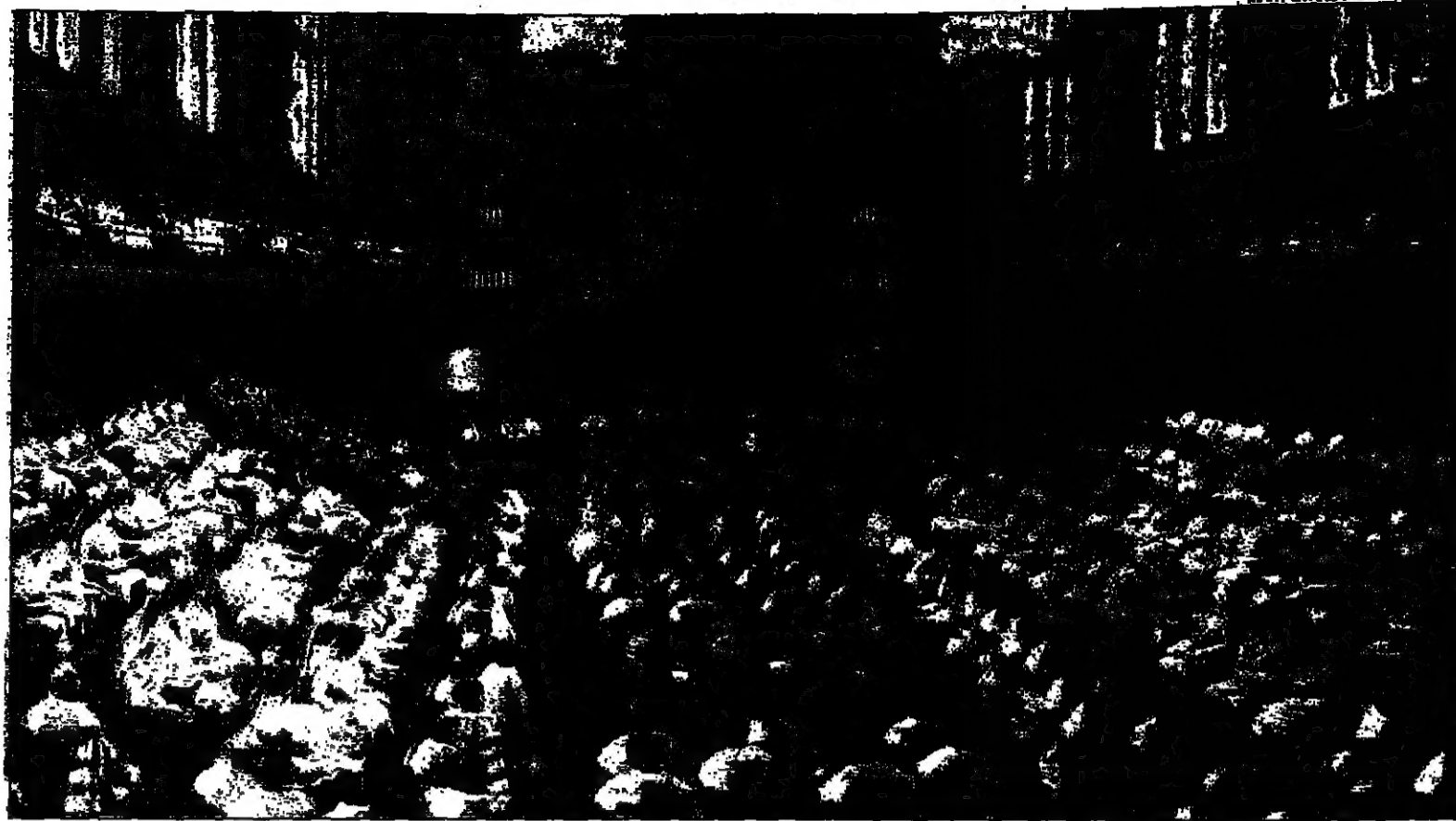
depending on the age and agility of the peer. A logjam of more than 50 new peers waiting to enter the Lords is forcing officials to breach convention and introduce more than two a day.

However, some Tory peers are accusing the Government of trying to streamline the ceremony to pave the way for a massive influx of new Labour life peers, under wider reforms of the Lords. Some traditionalists oppose any changes on principle.

Lord Richard, who represents the Lords in the Cabinet, will formally move "an humble address" to the Queen asking permission for the Lords to consider changes. Technically, the Queen still appoints peers and has to be consulted. With her permission, detailed proposals could be put before the House early next year.

Much of the ceremonial was invented by James I to give dignity to what had become a rather unseemly process after he handed out a large number of peerages for cash. A new member is led in by Black Rod, the administrative head in the Lords, who wears black breeches and tight and polished patent leather buckled shoes and carries a stick. He is followed by Garter King of Arms, a royal official, who wears an heraldic tabard.

The new peer, accompanied by his two sponsors, hands his Writ of Summons to the Lord Chancellor. Garter hands over



Full House: peers in regalia at the 1912 State Opening of Parliament. There are more than 50 new peers awaiting admission this year.

the peer's "Patent", a formal letter from the Queen. A Lords clerk then reads out the writ and patent in full, and the peer swears the oath of allegiance and signs the Roll of the Lords.

After a quick tour of the chamber, Garter leads the new peer and his sponsors to his seat. Three times, they sit, stand, doff their hats and bow to the Lord Chancellor and sit down again. Garter whispers the commands. All five people then process out of the chamber. On his way out, the new peer shakes the Lord Chancellor's hand, at which point peers cry: "Hear, hear."

Lord Richard's personal view is that the hat-doffing ceremony and one of the readings could be dropped. He says: "I suspect that many new peers find the present ceremony embarrassing."

"The length of the ceremony, and the limitation on numbers introduced each day, means that new peers often have to wait months before taking up their seats. We need a dignified ceremony with real meaning which combines the strength of tradition with the

needs of a modern legislature."

Lord Denham, the former Tory chief whip in the Lords who led a campaign against changes in the 1970s, will again voice caution. He says: "New peers enjoy it because it signifies their arrival at the House of Lords. Tradition and colour are rather nice."

Lord St John of Fawsley, the former Leader of the Commons, believes that some of the ceremony should be modernised: "The taking of one's seat in the Lords is a dignified part of the constitution. It should be solemn and impressive, but it could be shortened with advantage."

The hat-doffing, he said, was "rather absurd".

Lord Hailsham of Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, says: "They should leave the ceremony well alone. I personally rather like the introduction because you get an opportunity to see the new peers. But at my age you don't really remember them even if you have seen them."

Until the death of Henry V, the monarch created peerages in the Lords, personally

handing over sword, cap and coronet. By the time of James I, the ceremony took place in private investitures in a royal palace. James was notorious for flooding the Lords with new peers, many of whom had paid for their titles. He sold 37 in two years.

Such was the public outrage, in 1621 James was embarrassed into creating the procedures which have remained broadly intact until now. Most important for the King, the new ceremony removed the need for him to be present.

allow the Bill to die in its later stages. They tried to persuade Mr Foster not to bring the Bill and are keen to avoid any delay to the Government's main legislation. Measures expected to be put before Parliament soon include the Education Bill, aimed at raising school standards, and the Crime and Disorder Bill, designed to combat juvenile crime and speed up sentencing. Bills introducing Welsh and Scottish devolution are expected in November and December.

There is still a question mark over whether the government whips will

instead give pointers to the Chancellor's actual Budget in the spring.

MPs will be lobbied hard before the second reading debate on November 28 of a Private Member's Bill aimed at banning hunting with hounds. Although all MPs are being given a free vote, Michael Foster (Lab, Worcester), who introduced the Bill, is hoping that Labour's new ranks will give the measure overwhelming support.

There is still a question mark over whether the government whips will

NEWS IN BRIEF

Earliest risers are in the pipeline

People who live within and around the M25 are the country's earliest risers, according to research. They get up an average half an hour earlier than people in other English and Welsh towns and a full hour before most country dwellers.

According to an analysis by 14 water companies of what time customers start tapping into the supply, the earliest risers live in Surrey, where average water demand is reached by 6.15am.

Pollution study

Scientists in Edinburgh have begun a five-year study into pollution particles, believed to be linked to over 10,000 deaths a year. Air samples in London and Edinburgh will be compared to see how different chemical make-ups affect health.

Youth curfew

Twelve boys and a girl, aged six to 15, were returned to their homes on Saturday in Hamilton, Lanarkshire, in a police drive to clear youngsters off the streets after dark. A boy of 13 was drunk and one of 12 was allegedly involved in a disturbance.

Siamese twins

The first Siamese twins in Britain to be successfully separated were christened at Levenshulme, Manchester. Ailie and Niamh McDonnell, now aged six months, were separated at the chest and abdomen at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Scrap auction

A scrapbook of pictures and engravings compiled by Hans Christian Andersen and thought to be one of the last of its kind surviving in private hands is expected to fetch up to £60,000 when it goes for auction at Sotheby's in London on Friday.

MPs return to a busy schedule in revamped House

By JAMES LANDALE

MPs RETURN to Westminster today to begin a packed parliamentary schedule that includes three by-elections, a series of major government Bills and a controversial debate on hunting.

They will find themselves in a revamped Palace of Westminster, with ladies' lavatories in the voting lobbies and a unisex hair salon in place of the previous barber's shop. Despite having had a three-

month holiday, MPs will spend only four days at Westminster this week, taking Friday off to spend the day in their constituencies. The first big event will be Gordon Brown's statement to MPs today to clear up the confusion over the Government's policy on joining a single European currency.

But the focus will soon shift to the Beckenham by-election, prompted by Piers Merchant's resignation over his affair with an 18-year-old researcher. There is growing specu-

lation that one of the former Tory ministers who lost their seats in May, such as Michael Portillo or Malcolm Rifkind, will stand.

The writ for Beckenham has not yet been moved but the Tories are expected to fix a date this week. Party sources said they had not ruled out holding it on the same date as the Winchester by-election on November 20. Voters in Winchester have to go to the polls again after the High Court's decision to annul the general election result because of

ballot paper irregularities. A third by-election will take place on November 6 in Paisley, where the Labour general election victor, Gordon McMaster, committed suicide.

This autumn there will be no traditional State Opening of Parliament and Queen's Speech, which took place after the general election. MPs will, however, consider a "green Budget" from Gordon Brown in November. Despite its name, the document refers not to environmental matters but will

instead give pointers to the Chancellor's actual Budget in the spring.

MPs will be lobbied hard before the second reading debate on November 28 of a Private Member's Bill aimed at banning hunting with hounds. Although all MPs are being given a free vote, Michael Foster (Lab, Worcester), who introduced the Bill, is hoping that Labour's new ranks will give the measure overwhelming support.

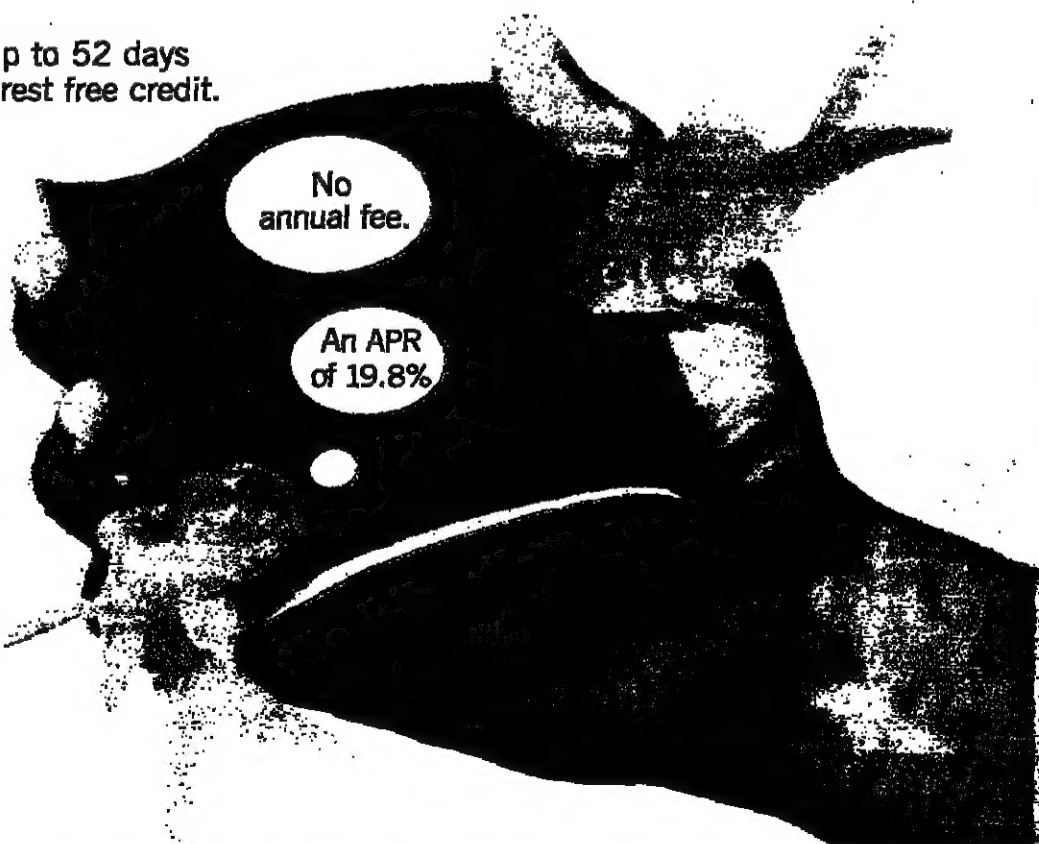
There is still a question mark over whether the government whips will

allow the Bill to die in its later stages. They tried to persuade Mr Foster not to bring the Bill and are keen to avoid any delay to the Government's main legislation. Measures expected to be put before Parliament soon include the Education Bill, aimed at raising school standards, and the Crime and Disorder Bill, designed to combat juvenile crime and speed up sentencing. Bills introducing Welsh and Scottish devolution are expected in November and December.

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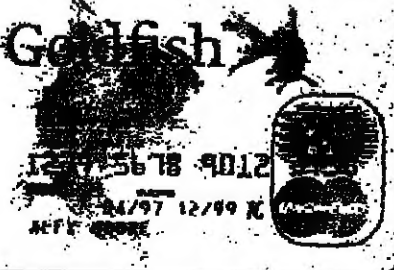


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Bonn splashdown heralds launch with shifting centre of gravity

Spaceship Bonn has been orbiting the globe for 50 years; oxygen is running short. Inside the weightless capsule, we astronauts — politicians, diplomats, lobbyists and journalists — have sat together in clammy commonion, chattering and idly watching the world below. Now it is time to return to Earth.

Bonn, like the burnt-out Min station, has almost served its purpose and may soon be a museum piece. The Berlin republic, looms and Germany is shifting from astro-politics, airless and remote, to gritty geopolitics. Rhinelanders have been waging a quiet, determined resistance against Berlin which, they say, embodies the old Prussian Vices. But no amount of departmental sabotage has been able to hold up the move. The foundations of the foreign embassies in Berlin have been laid (usually by Irish or Polish navies) and the Reichstag — four times the size of the House of Commons — is beginning to resemble a real parliament building.

Bonn's diplomatic appendix, Bad Godesberg, is struggling: the spa's only department store has been closed down as has the main furniture shop. Bonn is becoming a fossil; Berlin is full of raw, neurotic energy. Two issues are prompted by this emerging Berlin republic. The first is how far does geography shape policy? Does transporting the capital to within 30 miles of the Polish border change anything? The second concern will be the language of politics — change.

Germany ruled from Bonn was obsessed with balance. In the 1980s cruise missiles were installed but only on condition that negotiations with Moscow attempted to dismantle the same weapons; yin-yang, natural equilibrium between East and West. The country when governed from Berlin may not strive to quill the same polished way for internal consistency. Imagine moving the political centre of England from London to Manchester. Policy perspectives would alter. There would obviously be a stronger focus on the problems of the North, and of Northern Ireland.

Berlin will have a similar effect. By the time that politicians are operating from Berlin, in 1999, most of the tricky decisions about European economic and monetary union will have been taken. The Franco-German axis will have survived but it will have been supplanted by real significance, and the sentimental ties will have loosened; Paris will be the co-manager of the euro and the ideology of European integration will no longer figure in political discourse (except, of course, in Britain).

Instead eastward enlargement of the European Union will dominate German concerns. The Bonn approach to European expansion is to accept it as an article of faith. The Berlin republic will fight for Central Europe because it needs the region as a cushion against an unstable Russia. But there will be frictions too, attempts to extract advantage and concessions from the Poles, Czechs and Hungarians in return for the championing of their cause. The Berlin Chancellor will not be as meekly mouthed as the Bonn one; German interests conventionally dressed up as part of the great European project are likely to shed their seven veils.

A taste of the future came in a recent speech delivered in London by Gerhard Schröder, the Lower Saxon Prime Minister. If he is the man to topple Helmut Kohl next year and become the first Berlin Chancellor, no-one can doubt that eastward expansion will become more complicated. The Social Democrats want a European budget rebate and they want it more than the early entry of Poland with its huge farming sector.

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

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French atomic scientist denies KGB spy link

ROSE petals sprinkled by a bridge over the Seine, orange peel left near a document drop-off point; a cigarette packet placed by traffic lights: these were the alleged techniques used by Francis Temperville, the French atomic scientist, to communicate with his Russian spymasters in what prosecutors describe as the most damaging espionage scandal in France since the Second World War.

This week M Temperville, 40, will be brought back to a special court without jurors to face charges of treason for allegedly selling top-secret documents to the KGB between 1989 and 1990, including details of the French nuclear strike force and the nuclear test site at Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific.

M Temperville's alleged treason is a classic Cold War tale, but as prosecutors pointed out last week, he maintained contact with Russian agents well after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

A former engineer at the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), M Temperville allegedly received up to two million francs (£200,000) from two KGB agents posted at the Soviet Embassy and Unesco in Paris, in exchange for photocopies of at least 100 classified documents.

According to a pre-trial report, M Temperville caused

Paris court told classic espionage case is a show trial, writes Ben Macintyre

serious damage to the French nuclear programme by passing on information such as techniques for nuclear waste processing and the secret codes used to track the results of weapons tests.

M Temperville had already lost his job at the CEA for stealing office furniture when he was arrested in September 1992 after a former KGB colonel, Victor Otchenko, defected to London and provided information to MI6.

The accused spy has admitted handing over classified information to Sergei "Serge" Zimzyrev, deputy secretary at the Soviet Embassy, and later to Valentin "René" Makarov, third secretary to the Russian delegation at Unesco, but M Temperville claims he did not know they were Russian, or that they were spies.

Posing as a Briton, "Serge" first approached the French scientist in 1987, when M Temperville was studying nuclear physics at university,

to ask for coaching in maths and chemistry. "He presented himself as a worker at an engineering company who was preparing for an examination," M Temperville said.

When the Frenchman obtained a job in the top-secret military applications division of the CEA, the Russian agent "activated" his contact and became increasingly menacing. "He threatened to kill me, as well as my mother and grandmother. I plunged into hell," M Temperville told the court. "My biggest mistake was not to go to the police at that moment."

Prosecutors, however, have painted a more sophisticated picture of M Temperville's contacts with the agents, who left France under diplomatic immunity after his arrest. Investigators say the KGB left rose petals at a designated site to indicate they wanted a meeting; when M Temperville had documents to hand over, he would allegedly leave them in a rubbish bin near an electricity pylon and then drop orange peel 100 yards away. A packet of Dunhill cigarettes left by a set of traffic lights indicated the KGB had made the pick-up successfully.

After five years in detention, M Temperville faces a further 15 years in prison if convicted of treason, but his lawyer insists that he is the victim of a show trial orchestrated by the



An artist's impression of Francis Temperville on trial in Paris, accused of passing secrets to the KGB while working at the Atomic Energy Commission

DST, the French counter-intelligence agency. "You are trying to paint the ashes of a defunct political regime. The only purpose of this trial is to allow the DST to show spies that it is on the alert," Jean-Didier Belot, the lead defence lawyer, said.

The French scientist was known to hold anti-military views and he is accused of attempting to recruit others, but prosecutors say he was mainly motivated by greed. M

Temperville, however, claims to have received just 160,000 francs (£16,000) from the KGB agents.

M Belot called the trial, which is expected to last until next week, "an anachronism". He said: "If this were a genuine case of spying, it wouldn't be sorted out in a court of law. The spy would simply be liquidated. He would be rubbed out one night on a bridge."

Warning on Mafia 'army' as Italy joins border pact

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AS Italy yesterday joined the Schengen agreement on free movement across European frontiers, with airport staff giving passengers roses and sparkling wine to celebrate, a senior Italian official gave a warning that organised crime was exploiting the relaxation of border controls. He said the Mafia had "an army which is bigger and more dangerous than Hitler's".

Luciano Violante, the parliamentary speaker and an anti-Mafia lawyer, told a conference in Trieste on relations between the European Union and Eastern Europe that the growing international power of the Mafia required a co-ordinated European response. "We have created a European space without borders, but the Mafia is as well placed to take advantage of it as bona fide businessmen and travellers," he said. "We need a grand alliance against organised crime."

He said the Mafia's "immense" forces were "exceptionally well armed" and had financial resources amounting to billions of dollars. "They

can move their men and money around the map of Europe like pawns on a chessboard."

Under Schengen, passengers flying from Rome or Milan to Paris or Cologne do not have to show a passport, though airline staff still have to check the name on the ticket against some form of identification at the departure gate. Controls on sea and land borders are being "relaxed" and will be lifted in March.

Piero Fassino, the Deputy Foreign Minister, said yesterday Italy had spent £30 million improving its computerised police intelligence systems and police procedures to satisfy critics "who doubted our capacity to control our frontiers".

Separatists vote: The separatist Northern League yesterday staged "elections" for a 200-seat "parliament of the North" in its self-proclaimed "Republic of Padania", which embraces most of Italy's northern provinces. But the Government in Rome said the "election" had no legal or constitutional force.

Slovenia faces hitch to speedy EU entry

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA

FEW cheers could be heard around Western Europe yesterday when foreign ministers officially settled on a five-member guest list for the first batch of new European Union members from the old Communist bloc, but in one little country across the Alps, the word from Luxembourg prompted a sigh of relief. Slo-

venia, a state of two million people that needles between Austria and the Adriatic, made the grade along with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Estonia.

For Jozef Drnovsek, the Prime Minister, the request to join the EU is the pay-off for six hard years that have seen his country turn itself from a breakaway Yugoslav republic into the star among Central Europe's converts to democracy and the free market.

Sitting below a vast chandelier in his Cabinet room, Dr Drnovsek allows himself a little dream. Already well down the road to a Western-style economy, Slovenia could, he said, walk straight into monetary union, swapping its newly created tolar and stotins for the euro.

"We have already met the Maastricht criteria on fiscal matters," he noted. Of EU states, only Luxembourg, Fin-

land and Britain can say the same. But a cloud has loomed over the horizon. The young technocrats who run Slovenia are coming to understand that, for all the noble EU rhetoric on embracing the East, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and other leaders are in no rush to usher in the poor cousins.

Similar fears are being voiced across Central Europe as the EU squabbles about paying for an enlargement that will force a painful shift in resources, including a remake of the common agricultural policy that devours half the EU spending. Spain wants guarantees on continuing cash for the poorer states and Germany wants a big cut in its contributions to EU coffers. The whole enlargement package is called Agenda 2000, but

the footdragging has put the entry of the first new members back until at least 2003 and possibly years later.

"It's more a question of when the EU will be ready to accept new members than when we are going to be ready," said Dr Drnovsek, 47, a centre-left politician with a mournful air. He made clear that he is irked by Herr Kohl's apparent determination that no new members should join until Poland is ready.

"Slovenia doesn't present any kind of problem to the EU," Dr Drnovsek said. "We are no competition for Spain, Portugal or Ireland." The boast is backed up by figures. Slovenia, a branch of the old Habsburg empire that likes to forget its Balkan background, now boasts a national income per head of 66 per cent of the EU average, almost the same as Spain and more than Greece and Portugal.

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Wrangle over Turkey

BRITAIN joined forces with France yesterday in an effort to overcome German resistance to inviting Turkey with other would-be members of the European Union to a grand Europe conference in London in February (Charles Bremmer writes).

The question of what to do with Turkey soured the air at a weekend session where EU

foreign ministers cleared the way to invite five Central European states plus Cyprus to start negotiating their entry to the Union in the new year. Ministers agreed that the French proposal of a grand conference was the best way. The EU has two months to resolve the Turkish squabble and complete its invitation list.

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Gates revels in cyber Xanadu

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN MEDINA, WASHINGTON STATE

WREATHED in mist and overhung by a transplanted forest, Bill Gates's \$60 million (£37 million) home is occupied at last, but still not finished. The first proof is a flimsy guard shack at its front entrance. Knocked together out of scrap wood and polythene, it has room for one deck chair and was valued by its occupant at "maybe five dollars". The shack is dwarfed by towering Douglas firs. Etchings of leaves decorate the green-and-grey slate paving. Beyond, 300 yards of driveway twist down to a vaulted subterranean car park from where a tunnel and a sloping footbridge bring visitors, eventually, to the Xanadu of the computer age.

series of airy wood and glass pavilions descending sharply to the lush shore of Lake Washington. A central computer — likened by Mr Gates to Hal of 2001: A Space Odyssey — controls heating, music and art in each room according to personal tastes

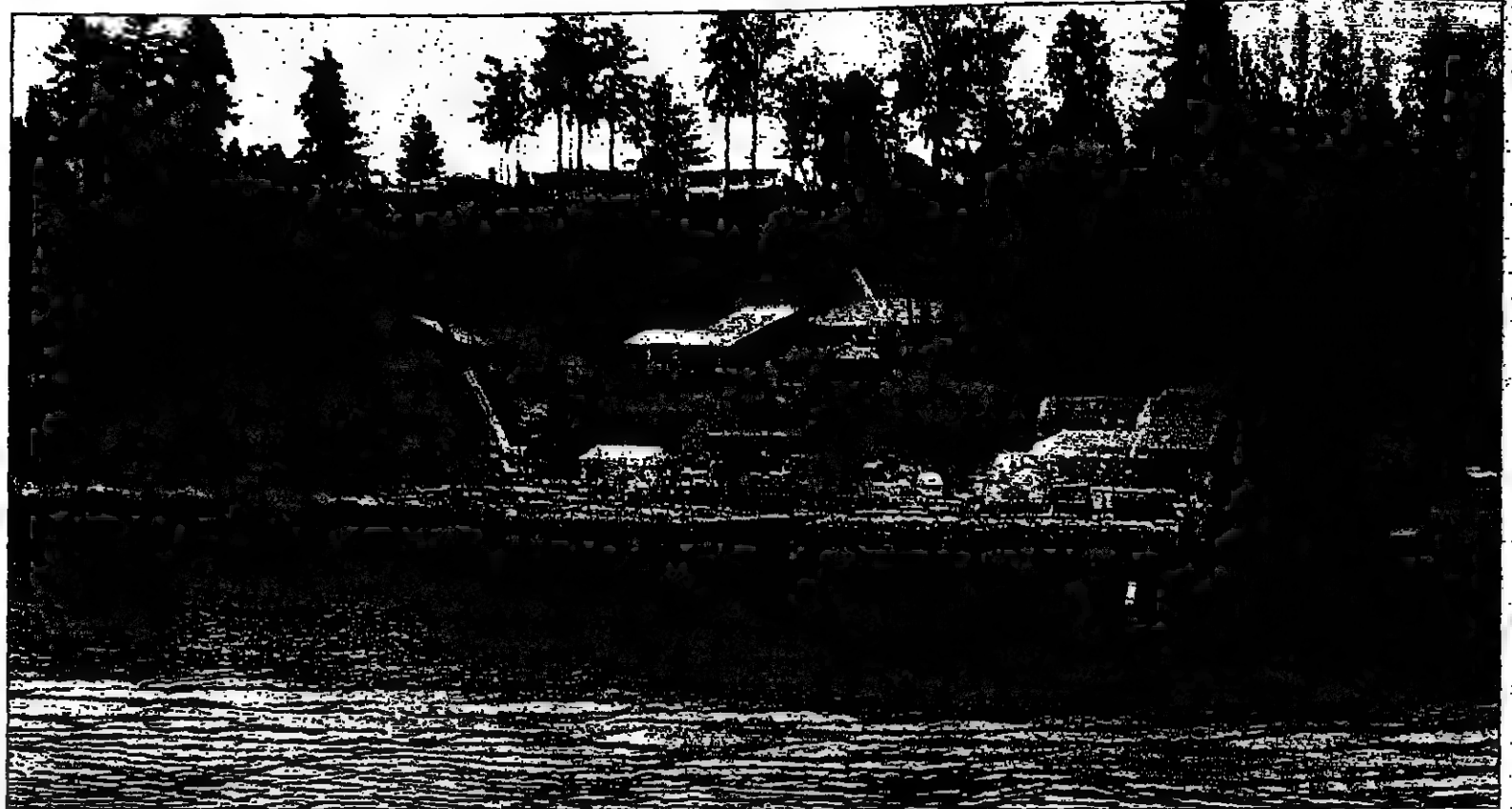
That is the idea. Yet after seven years and endless delays, the world's richest person, worth an estimated \$42 billion as a founder of Microsoft, is living next to a high-tech building site of his own making in the town of Medina, much of which resembles suburban



Bill and Melinda Gates, who moved into their house last month after years of delays

programmed onto digital badges given to all guests. They can gaze either at the lake, or at video walls displaying any of 100,000 masterpieces to which their host owns the electronic rights.

are free of builders, leaving them to frolic in form-fitting baths, bounce in a cubic trampoline room with padded walls and exercise in a 60ft swimming pool with underwater music and a solid teak



Overlooking Lake Washington, Bill Gates's mansion is a hybrid of family home, electronic fun palace and corporate conference centre

diving board. Their view over the lake to Seattle is spectacular, but their front yard is a scene of mobile cranes and hard hats. On the first glimpse of the site granted to a newspaper since the family moved in last month, a senior contractor admitted to *The Times*

that he and his men would probably be there "for months". Mr Gates seems unembarrassed by the noise and the dust.

His wife Melinda has more reason than her husband to fret over the builders, since she spends more time than he

does at home, looking after their infant daughter, Jennifer. But by most accounts she is at least partly responsible for the delays.

The house had been under construction for four years when she married him in Hawaii in 1994 and reportedly

declared she could not live in it. "The exposed concrete is going to have to go," he admitted after she hired a French interior designer. Bare steel beams were softened in appearance. Showers went into the 18 bedrooms after being left out of the original

design because, local lore has it, they ruled out working on a laptop. The result is a sprawling experiment initially intended as "the ultimate bachelor pad", now destined to be a hybrid of family home, electronic fun palace and corporate conference centre.

Voters deliver blow to Menem

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINIANS voted for 127 new congressional deputies yesterday in nationwide elections widely seen as a barometer of growing dissatisfaction with the Government of President Menem.

Pre-ballot surveys and initial exit poll results showed that his Justice Party (the Peronists) could lose control over Congress for the first time in his seven years in office. Argentina's 22 million voters were expected largely to endorse a new opposition alliance, in protest at harsh austerity measures implemented as part of free-market reforms, rising unemployment and numerous corruption scandals.

The Alliance Party, expected to clinch a majority of seats in Congress, is a coalition between the traditional opposition Radical Party and a group of left-wing and centrist parties. It was formed a few months ago with the intention of "breaking up the monopoly on power" held by Señor Menem's party. "The overwhelming backing for the new coalition is a clear sign of protest against the Government," said Rosendo Fraga, a political analyst.



Menem's party faces Congress losses

New York delights lure back elderly

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN

SPURNING Florida and its sunshine, elderly Americans are flocking to New York in search of a better quality of retired life. This trend, reported yesterday in the *Daily News*, appears to turn conventional wisdom on its head, suggesting that senior citizens are no longer satisfied with a life of idleness by the sea or in retirement homes far from the cities where they lived and worked.

Thanks to medical advances, the elderly are more active and often crave the cultural diversions of pre-retirement days. New York offers these in abundance. The good notices the city has received recently for its reduction in crime, improved hygiene and new-found civic vigour have led to the abandonment of fears about life in the Big Apple.

Herbert Stupp, a commissioner in New York City's Department for the Ageing, says: "New York is a very senior-friendly city, perhaps the most in the country." It was a "good place to grow old" because of its sophisticated healthcare, a developed transport network, and price discounts for the elderly at many shops and restaurants. There is already a large pool, about 1.3 million, of over-60s in the city, which is now inured to the foibles of the elderly.

According to the *Daily News*, the new trend towards retirement in New York can be detected in the building boom in homes and apartments for "the retired". Estate agents report a rise in lettings to newly arrived elderly people from "out of town".

Yet it is the city's undeniable cultural attractions which appear to hold the key to the new trend. New York has more museums, cinemas, libraries and theatres than any other city in the world. A lazy daiquiri every evening and the Florida sunsets are simply not in the same league.

Snowstorm paralyses Colorado traffic

By GILES WHITTELL

AN autumn blizzard which experts said may be related to El Niño, the weather phenomenon, paralysed Colorado at the weekend, with three feet of snow falling on suburban Denver and a deeper blanket on the nearby Rockies. At the city's new airport, designed at huge cost to defy snowy conditions, 2,000 people were stranded for most of Saturday. Police cars and even

snowploughs became stuck in drifts along Interstate 25. Roy Romer, Colorado's Governor, declared a state of emergency and mobilised the National Guard.

Other Western plains states from Nebraska to northern Texas were immobilised by Friday's storm, described by some as the worst since 1982 — the year of the last major El Niño effect.

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Rights activists plan noisy Jiang welcome

WASHINGTON was on edge yesterday awaiting the arrival of President Jiang Zemin of China. Chinese dissidents and their American allies were hoping to attract wide publicity for demonstrations against human rights abuses, including religious persecution and the continued imprisonment of critics of the Beijing Government.

The Clinton Administration was still anxiously anticipating precise assurances from the Chinese for an agreement that would provide the summit's diplomatic centrepiece. It would enable American companies to sell civilian nuclear reactors worth billions of dollars to China in return for Beijing's promise to phase out its nuclear co-operation with Iran, considered a rogue state by the US.

There was less serious conjecture over whether Mr Jiang, widely regarded as a somewhat wooden figure in public, would break into song and play the piano. During a private dinner last year in the Philippines, he astonished

America's red-carpet treatment for a brutal regime has forged a

vocal alliance, Ian Bradie reports

President Ramos by joining him in a duet, in English, of the Elvis Presley classic *Love Me Tender*. Given President Clinton's fondness for Elvis and for blowing his sax-



Clinton: optimistic about deal on nuclear reactors

ophone anything is possible. Mr Jiang's week-long state visit is the most important for the United States and China, with both nations wanting to improve relations despite fundamental differences. Mr Jiang arrived last night in Hawaii and lands tomorrow in Washington where on Wednesday, in keeping with China's insistence, he will receive a 21-gun salute and a state dinner at the White House.

The first such event since China crushed the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square in 1989 has brought together a group of dissidents exiled in America to protest against the red-carpet reception accorded to the 71-year-old Chinese leader.

Wang Xizhe, who spent 14 years in Chinese prisons for

challenging Communist ideology, has sent a flurry of e-mails to members of Congress urging them to question China's continued crackdown on dissent.

Now a visiting scholar at Harvard, Mr Wang will join the demonstration that is planned for Lafayette Square, opposite the White House, a protest that Chinese officials had pleaded in vain should be kept out of sight and earshot of the formal welcome for Mr Jiang within the grounds.

That evening, during the state banquet, a rival "stateless dinner" will be held at a nearby hotel to condemn China's occupation of Tibet. One speaker will be Richard Gere, the Hollywood actor, a Buddhist and friend of the Dalai Lama who has taken up the Tibetan cause.

Madeline Albright, the Secretary of State, sounded defensive yesterday as she emphasised that America's policy of engagement with the Chinese did not mean endorsing everything they did. "We will never have a completely nor-



President Jiang answers questions at a weekend press conference in Beijing about his visit to the United States

mal relationship with them until they have a better human rights policy," she said. As for the promised demonstrations, Ms Albright said: "The Chinese chose the itinerary. If they are not prepared for them, they ought to be."

Beijing: At a rare press

conference at the weekend for American journalists, Mr Jiang as usual read prepared replies to questions, a style that will win little favour in the United States (James Pringle writes).

Envoys in the Chinese capital say that it will be hard for

him to match the charisma of the late Deng Xiaoping. He beguiled Americans with witty comments and by wearing a Stetson on his groundbreaking trip in 1979. That followed years of Sino-American strife under Mao, who eventually initiated "ping-

pong diplomacy", leading to the 1972 visit by President Nixon. A positive result of the trip, as well as the commitment to end missile sales to Iran, is that China is expected to stop support for nuclear programmes for Pakistan that fall outside UN guidelines.

Triad killings point to gang war in Macau

FROM DAVID WAITS IN MACAU

MACAU was on the verge of all-out gang warfare last night after the assassination of the alleged boss of one of the biggest triads in the Portuguese-ruled territory.

The local leader of the 14K gang, Leong Kwak-Hong, was shot dead outside a lift in his apartment building as he returned home in what was seen as a revenge killing for an earlier double murder.

Macau is used by wealthy mainland Chinese who flock to gamble in its nine casinos — a vice that is illegal at home and in Hong Kong.

Some mainland gamblers fly in two or three times a week from the newly rich areas of southern China to be

chaperoned by local gangsters offering huge cash loans for gambling, expensive hotel rooms and the services of hundreds of Russian prostitutes.

Last year, the industry was worth \$1.5 billion and covered half the territory's tax requirements.

Last night's murder was the twenty-fourth gangland-related killing this year in a tiny area with a population of only 450,000, and it follows a series of bomb explosions during the week and a particularly bloody double murder last weekend. That killing was a dispute over who was chaperoning a wealthy mainland gangster. Two young triad members were killed; one shot and the other stabbed 30 times in the car park of the Hyatt Regency hotel, which has the territory's newest casino.

The mainland gamblers bring in two thirds of the

revenue in VIP casino rooms where they are waited on hand and foot. One such gambler admitted to a Hong Kong court last week that he had lost \$1.5 million in Macau casinos and thought nothing of it.

"This is not the Chicago of the Orient," said one gangland analyst. "So people really notice when something like this happens. You maybe even see the body on the street. You don't just read about it. It's all down to the local spin-offs from gambling — we call it chips and chicks."

Tourists have noticed, and the number of visitors is 12 per cent down over last year.

Some believe the latest attacks are an attempt to break the hold of billionaire Stanley Ho, who has a monopoly of gambling in the enclave, which China is committed to recognising until 2001. Macau

will return to Chinese rule in 1999. Juxin Swing, the deputy manager of the Hotel Lisboa casino, the biggest in the enclave, denies that there is any gangster influence in the gaming rooms and maintains they are only involved in peripheral businesses.

Despite laws introduced recently, it is hard to track down the perpetrators of killings such as that last night. Most of the killers are former soldiers in the Chinese People's Liberation Army who have been made redundant.

Half the assassination fee is paid to the killer's family in advance and the rest on completion when the gunman melts back into the one billion Chinese on the mainland.



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Island states fear trade wind of change

COMMONWEALTH leaders tried at the weekend to smooth over a rift between the larger members, eager to embrace globalisation, and tiny island states that fear they will be overwhelmed in the rush to liberalise trade.

The leaders bridged their sharp differences to sign their first ever economic agreement, the "landmark Edinburgh Declaration", hailed by Tony Blair as "an important and exciting development" which provides the framework for the Commonwealth to play a "dynamic role in promoting trade and investment".

But a group of 40 small Commonwealth countries issued a warning that they were especially vulnerable to sweeping new trade measures, and said they could be marginalised if their fragile economies were not protected. They called for special help in the transition to the new trading climate, and said the bigger nations should fight for them in any new trade agreements.

The British Government expressed relief that it had succeeded in placing the benefits of trade liberalisation and globalisation at the centre of

Michael Binyon and Alasdair Murray on the split behind the Edinburgh pact

the agreement. But the document stops short of meeting the key British aim of winning a clear Commonwealth endorsement for a new "millennium" round of world trade talks. The Declaration also contains important concessions from developed countries, including Australia, to support measures to make "significant reductions" in greenhouse gas emissions after the Kyoto environmental conference.

Mr Blair admitted the "disparate" nature of the Commonwealth had made it difficult to reach agreement, and the Declaration, supposed to provide the centrepiece of the Heads of Government Meeting, was launched with surprisingly little fanfare.

Some 31 Commonwealth

members have a population of less than 1.5 million, and a few have only several thousand inhabitants. Many are dependent on single exports, especially bananas. They fear their voices will be drowned in international trade talks and see the Commonwealth as one of the few bodies ready to listen to them.

Chief Ernieka Anyaoku, the Secretary-General, gave notice of the small states' worries in his opening address when he said that the benefits of globalisation had been distributed unequally. "For many developing countries, globalisation has meant further marginalisation. An international underclass... has emerged to complement the underclass within nations."

The banana-exporting countries fear the World Trade Organisation ruling, which outlaws the special preference given to Caribbean banana exports to the European Union, will make them uncompetitive, bankrupt their farmers and lead to increases in crime and drug smuggling. Yesterday the Prime Ministers of the Windward Islands said they were doing their best



President Mandela with Tony Blair during a stroll by Commonwealth leaders at St Andrews yesterday

to diversify their economies, but there were limits to the expansion of tourism. Only bananas gave enough jobs to small farmers, and it was the only crop that could recover quickly from regular hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Britain has promised to try

to help, but Tony Blair insists there is no alternative to free trade which in the long run will benefit everyone. He has refused to give a commitment that Britain would push the EU into continuing its special banana regime.

The small states include

Singapore and Brunei. But they claimed they were as vulnerable as the others to threats from powerful neighbours or natural disasters. The very small states, however, are taking a special interest in another big threat: the world's climate. Environment and climate change are

another issue pitting the big Commonwealth members against the smaller ones.

Yesterday's agreement contains few concrete measures and Britain will be looking to the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting to add substance to the principles.

Commonwealth leaders retreat to the bunkers

By MICHAEL BINYON

COMMONWEALTH leaders took time out from formal talks for a "bonding and binding" day at St Andrews. They strolled across the golf greens, introduced wives and sought wives, over a good lunch and in bracing air, to consolidate agreements on trade, human rights and the 54-nation club's expansion.

The leaders, apart from Tofilau Eli Alesana, the Prime Minister of Samoa, who was admitted to hospital with a leg infection, were also invited on Saturday to a dinner hosted by Tony and Cherie Blair in

the Signet Library in Edinburgh. At St Andrews, it was decided to accept a report on Commonwealth enlargement that insists newcomers can join only if they have a constitutional link with Britain or another member, and a record on human rights and democracy in line with the Harare declarations.

British sources say that rules out immediate acceptance of two new applicants: Rwanda, on constitutional grounds, and Yemen because of its human rights record. But their bids remain on the table and will be considered in greater detail later. The leaders adopted the report by

the eight-man Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group which gives Nigeria another year to restore democracy before sanctions and even expulsion are introduced.

And despite unspoken worries by some African leaders, the heads of state decided to turn this ministerial group into a permanent human rights watchdog to report on any other transgressions among their members.

Membership of the group would rotate every few years, the Commonwealth leaders declared. The weekend talks saw wide-ranging agreement on other issues,

including a new trade, investment and development deal, the special needs of the smallest countries and tough new rules to protect the global environment.

The last two subjects, however, showed sharp divisions at the start of the summit between the big and small members. Officials were hoping that the retreat to St Andrews would smooth away lingering differences before the final communiqué is issued today.

Mr Tofilau, who is in his seventies, spent the day at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh after being admitted on Saturday at 7pm. It is

understood that he was being treated with antibiotics. He was expected to be detained for up to 48 hours.

At the dinner which his illness forced him to miss, the delegates were served with roasted tomato and red onion with wilted spinach, followed by loin of Scottish lamb with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Caramelised autumn fruits and whisky cream were served for dessert and there was a selection of Scottish traditional cheeses, coffee and Orkney fudge to finish.

Leading article, page 21



Tofilau in hospital with a leg infection

WORLD IN BRIEF

Colombian voters defy rebel threat

Bogotá: Colombians braved the threat of bombs and bullets to vote in local polls yesterday while left-wing rebels pressed ahead with a violent sabotage campaign.

Abstention levels as high as 70 per cent were predicted, especially outside major cities where guerrillas paralysed most road transport with their "armed strike". They issued a warning to voters to stay at home and declared election officials to be military targets. (Reuters)

Asian Aids peril

Manila: Asia will overtake Africa in a few years as the region worst hit by HIV, which causes Aids, and Asians should not be lulled into complacency by new drugs, a UN official said. (Reuters)

Iran stoning

Tehran: Three men and three women were stoned to death in public at Sari, 155 miles north of here, after an Iranian court found them guilty of adultery and prostitution, a newspaper said. (AP)

Ape victims

Jakarta: People in Borneo killed or tortured about 120 orang-utans as they fled forest fires. Some were sold for \$60 each. The total of Indonesian cities hit by smog has nearly doubled to 41 from 22. (AP)

Water for Sinai

Cairo: Egypt's President Mubarak pushed a button to send Nile water through four tunnels under the Suez Canal to irrigate the arid Sinai desert and allow 1.5 million people to resettle there. (Reuters)

A tug too far

Taipei: Doctors reattached the left arms of two Taiwanese men who lost the limbs when a tug-of-war rope on which they and another 1,500 people were pulling snapped. Forty others were hurt. (Reuters)

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- No Arrangement Fee
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- No redemption penalty
- Capital raise up to £50,000
- Cheque book facility available to draw funds when required
- Free re-mortgage package available.

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Why cabbies are irrational

ECONOMIC theories tend to assume that people's behaviour is rational. But it isn't always so, as Colin Camerer of the California Institute of Technology and colleagues showed in a study of New York City cab drivers. Any one who has taken a cab in New York

might already have suspected this, as the taxis there often seem to be driven by people who are less familiar with the city than a first-time visitor. But we'll let that pass.

Professor Camerer set out to test how cabbies make decisions about how long to work. Two possible economic models apply. One is the law of supply, which suggests that people should want to sell more of something when the price is high than when it is low. The second he calls daily income targeting — that is, the drivers set themselves a target, say \$150 a day in fares, and stop when they have achieved it. "Target setting can be very motivating in unpleasant or tedious activities, such as exercise," he says in an account of the project in *Engineering and Science*, Caltech's quarterly journal.

The team, which comprised Camerer, Linda Babcock and George Loewenstein of Carnegie Mellon University, and Richard Thaler of the University of Chicago, got data for the years 1988, 1990 and 1994 from the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission. This comprised meter records which showed how much the driver earned each day. On a busy day drivers earned money more quickly than on a quiet day. The law of



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

supply suggests that they should go on working longer on such a day, to take advantage of their enhanced earning capacity. The targeting theory says that they should work fewer hours because they hit their daily target sooner.

The data shows clearly that the latter is closer to the truth. Yet it also shows that the cabbies could get an automatic rise of 8 per cent if they worked for the same number of hours each day, and if they fully obeyed the law of supply they could earn an extra 15 per cent. In 1995 they averaged \$22,000 a year, so they could have made at least another \$2,000 by simply changing their driving habits.

This suggests that the typical New York cabbie is rationally as well as geographically challenged. But there is a final twist. Cabbies run in chronological order, so it is possible to use the data to compare experienced drivers with relative beginners. (In 1991, 40 per cent of the drivers came from India, 11 per cent from Africa, and 7 per cent each from the Caribbean, the Middle East and Russia. Only 10 per cent were American-born.) When the comparison is made, it turns out that naive drivers follow income-targeting but experienced ones come closer to the law of supply.

So as the drivers learn the street patterns, they also learn to behave as rational economic beings: an encouraging conclusion, although not to supply-side economists who argue that people would work harder if taxes were cut. Not if they were New York cabbies, they wouldn't.

Underwater guinea-pigs



A MACABRE experiment in British Columbia could help pathologists to make more informed guesses about how long a body has been immersed in water. Niki Macdonell, a graduate student at Simon Fraser University, dressed eight dead pigs in clothes and immersed them in streams and lakes in forests. She plans to start pulling them out next month.

For the past year she has been monitoring the bodies to study the life cycles of the creatures that live on them — everything from aquatic bugs to clams. Such populations may give useful indications of how long a body has been at a particular place, and whether it has been moved. Pigs were chosen because they are similar in size and mass to human bodies. Ms Macdonell says that until now, pathologists have had to make "educated guesses" when they try to estimate the time of death in such cases.

She had found more than 50 species of invertebrate colonising the pigs. "Bodies are a nutrient-rich source," she says, "but their decomposition and shape make for a great habitat." She planned to remove her pigs months ago, but has been surprised how slowly they have decomposed.

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Professor Robert Morris, above, is "between 90 and 95 per cent sure" that people possess a hitherto undocumented ability to communicate with the world around them

A perception less ordinary

Anjana Ahuja on the evidence gained from experiments into ESP

The telephone rings, you know who it is before you pick up the receiver. You dream of an old friend, a letter from the past morning. Most of us dismiss such strange happenings as coincidences. But one man has spent most of his professional life trying to prove that such events are not flukes.

At a public lecture next week, Robert Morris, Koestler Professor of Parapsychology at the University of Edinburgh, will say that he is "between 90 and 95 per cent sure" that human beings possess a hitherto undocumented ability to communicate with the world around them. He is convinced that extra-sensory perception (ESP) exists.

Orthodox scientists splutter incredulously that the laws of nature do not allow people to transmit thoughts to each other. How, they ask, can brainwaves be transported and replicated in someone else's head? Professor Morris, an American, admits that he does not have an answer, but he is not bothered by the conflict with conventional science. "Perhaps we need to reinterpret the laws of nature to accommodate it," he says.

Professor Morris, 53, arrived at Edinburgh University 12 years ago to join the Koestler Parapsychology Unit, which was set up with a bequest from the author Arthur Koestler. He dislikes the prefix *para-* (meaning beside, past or beyond): "There is

nothing para about our research. I use the term only because of the will."

Before he entered the field, his PhD at Duke University, North Carolina, was in animal social behaviour. He classed himself as neither believer nor sceptic, although he had experienced "little events, nothing dramatic" that could be coincidences. Once, he recalls, he was discussing forest fires when he received a phone call about that very topic.

The professor and four researchers use a refined version of the Ganzfeld technique. A volunteer (the thought-reader) sits alone in a windowless, soundproof room, with headphones on and halved table tennis balls covering the eyes. A relaxation tape is played through the headphones to put the volunteer at ease, and then white noise, which sounds like a hiss, is piped through.

The sender sits alone in a separate room. His task is to "transmit", using thought alone, the contents of a randomly selected one-minute video clip from a pool of 100. While the sender is watching the clip, the recipient is asked to describe images that come to mind.

When the film is over, the sender stays put. Meanwhile, a computer-linked video shows the recipient four video clips; the recipient must choose which one most closely tallies with the mental images he picked up. Since there is a one-in-four chance of guessing the correct clip, the success rate must exceed 25 per cent to be meaningful. In the past three studies, conducted over two years using 276 volunteers, the success rates have been 34, 47 and 42 per cent.

These figures are enough to satisfy Professor Morris that something strange is going on. He adds that some people seem better than others at squeezing strong imagery out of weak information and postulates that there may be a genetic component to ESP.

On inspection, the experimental technique looks scrupulous. "Each person does one session only," says Professor Morris. "If we discard any sessions, we do it before we know the result. We have had acoustic engineers checking the room, and a sensor alerts us if the sender leaves the room." He does not appear to resent the almost hostile scrutiny that his results undergo. "One can only criticise properly if one knows the work. I do think that some criticisms we get are knee-jerk reactions, although these are understandable. Extraordinary claims call for extraordinary evidence."

It is difficult not to think that if ESP were a genuine phenomenon, we would all know about it by now. "If it occurred with sufficient ease and strength, maybe," says Professor Morris. "Perhaps it gets crowded out by noise and people don't notice it. The Ganzfeld technique puts

people in special circumstances."

Yet how can thoughts physically be transmitted? According to Professor Morris, several physicists, including the Nobel laureate Sir Brian Josephson at Cambridge University, are applying their expertise to this area. Tentative suggestions include energy fields and unidentified particles. The answer may even lie entwined in the secrets of consciousness. It is hard to

know what to conclude after talking to Professor Morris. He dismisses the rash of television programmes on paranormal subjects as "abysmal and misleading". His CV shows an impeccable academic grounding. He does not court publicity for his unusual endeavours.

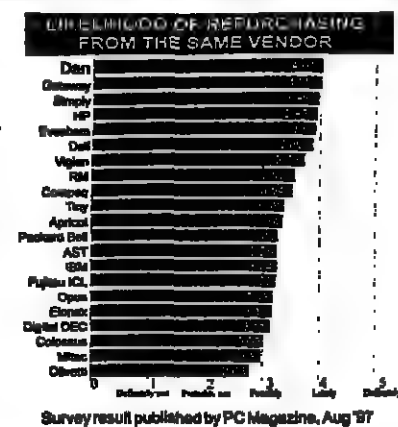
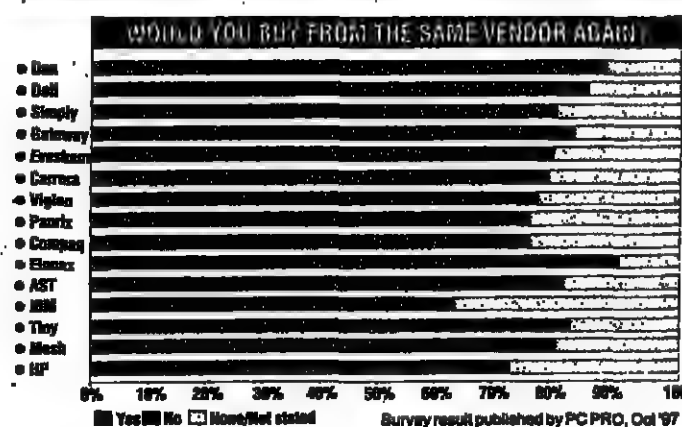
On the other hand, his research papers have been published in parapsychology, rather than mainstream journals, and results must be painstakingly extracted from a flurry of statistics. One of Professor Morris's former students, Dr Richard Wiseman, from the University of Hertfordshire, concluded that, when taken together, all 31 Ganzfeld experiments carried out across the world between 1986 and 1996 showed no significant effect. Dr Wiseman says: "I'm at the sceptical end of things. We don't disagree on the data, only the interpretation." Could Professor

Morris ever see *Nature* publishing a paper saying that ESP existed? *Nature* did publish one in the Seventies. I think we could see another, but only once a body of evidence has been accumulated. I'm pretty sure I'm going to die before I get a sense of closure on this."

I hope Professor Morris forgives me for thinking the same.

Professor Morris will lecture at the Royal Society of Arts, 1 John Adam St, London WC2, on November 3. Admission is free. Call 0171-630 0286 to reserve a place.

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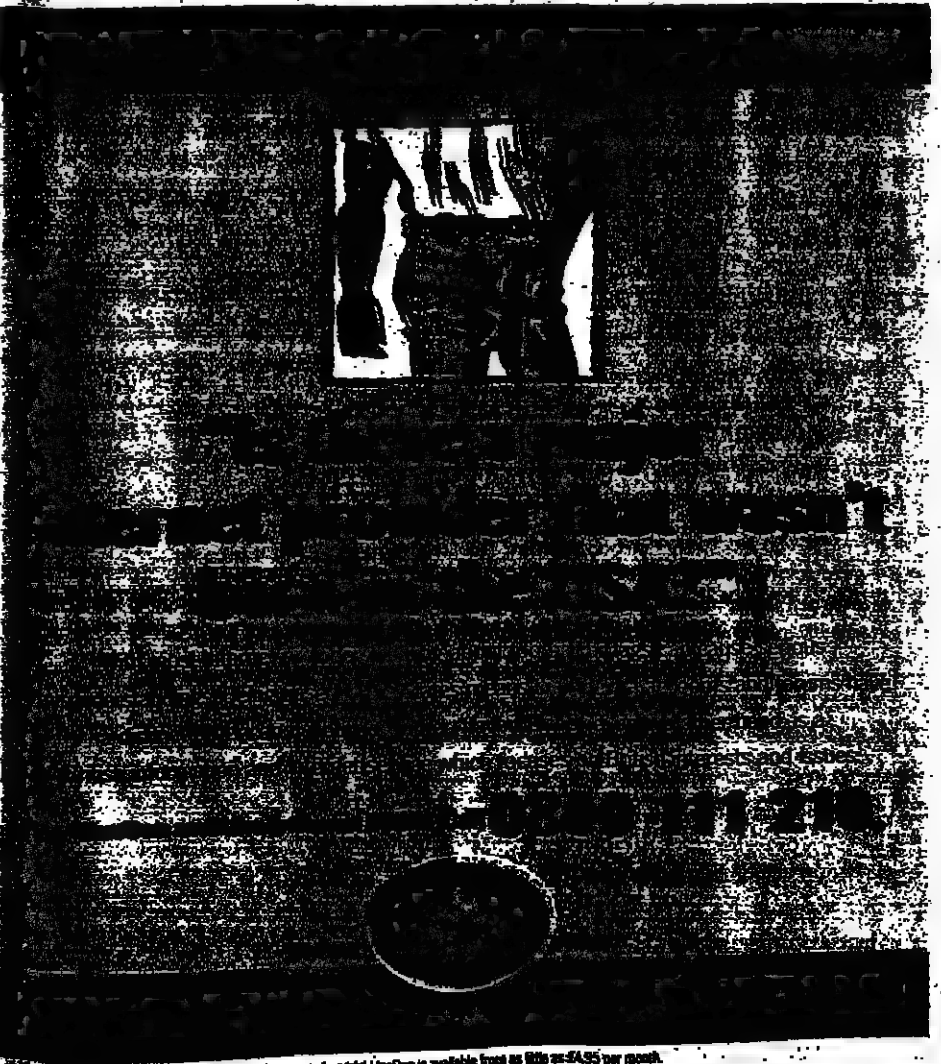
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'I only found freedom when I came to prison'

Harry Stourton goes to Pentonville to meet the criminals trying to kick their addiction to drugs

Walk through any run-down urban area and you will come across the detritus of a drug-taking culture: the water-bottle pipe of the crack addict, the brown stained foil of the smackhead, the spent syringe of the junkie. Drugs are such a menacing temptation that almost half the population under the age of 30 is believed to have experimented with them.

Only a minority will become addicted, but those who do exert a pernicious influence. It can cost hundreds of pounds a day to feed a habit and few can manage that legally. Most addicts turn to crime. The statistics are staggering — about 50 per cent of property crime, for example, is directly attributable to addicts frantic for cash. So what is the answer? Prison, many people will say, or zero tolerance and stern sentences.

The trouble with prison is that it often exacerbates the problem. Drastically understaffed, today's crowded jails are hotbeds of drug dealing. It is often easier to get hold of illegal substances inside jail. Clive Barber, the Governor of R Wing at Pentonville prison, says that most drugs get in through social visits. "If friends and family members bring them in, the prisoners can then secrete them internally and it is impossible for us to intercept them," he says. Inside prison, drugs take on an even sharper focus. The mental escape they offer can seem like the only release for a sector of society that despairs of its future.

Six years ago a charitable organisation, RAPT (the Rehabilitation of Addicted Prisoners Trust), was set up to help prisoners to overcome their addiction while still serving their sentences. Mike Trace, executive director of RAPT and deputy to the newly appointed drugs czar, Keith Hellawell, says: "Drug culture and criminal culture are interrelated in the UK." He estimates that there could be as many as 20,000 people passing through prison annually who require treatment; at the moment it is available to only 1,500 people. RAPT operates schemes in five prisons: Downview, Colding-



The Rehabilitation of Addicted Prisoners Trust conducts a group session for addicts

ley, Wandsworth, Pentonville and Norwich.

It was to Pentonville I went: a stark, sprawling Victorian building. Escorted inside the gates, past endless security checks, I found myself in a world of grimy brick walls and barred windows. The metal walkways clattered under the tread of booted feet. But as I reached R Wing — where the drug rehabilitation unit is centred — the change of mood was palpable. It was clean and bright and the atmosphere was calmer and quieter.

It was here that I met Mickey, who had been elected to act as a spokesman for the group. The 28-year-old East Ender is typical of the people RAPT helps. Thickset, with a cropped scalp and an intimidating stare, he tells of his past life. He is serving his seventh sentence for crimes such as theft, assault and criminal damage. "I sniffed glue and smoked cannabis at school," he says, "but my drug of choice was alcohol until I went to prison. There, I would take anything I could get my hands on: methadone, smack, LSD." All of this on top of the

antidepressants prescribed for him by prison doctors.

Mickey felt that he had been trapped in a cycle of crime. Released after his first sentence, he had no money or prospects. His father had been murdered by his stepfather, and his alcoholic mother was little help. He began to drink and take drugs. An uncontrolled, violent binge landed him back in prison. By then, he was an addict. All his subsequent sentences were the result of crimes committed to finance his habit. When Mickey is released in 1999 he will have spent most of his twenties inside.

"I got depressed and paranoid and I started harming myself. I cut my throat and my arms," he says. "I didn't know how to stop. I thought I was no good to anyone and would be better off dead."

Finally, Mickey encountered RAPT. "I realised if I continued the way I was I would end up killing myself — and probably someone else, too." So he applied for a place on R Wing.

An intensive 12-step programme, RAPT focuses on

withdrawal from a drug and on encouraging personal awareness and self-respect. Treatment begins with a two-week detox. Prisoners are then offered counselling both in groups and individually. The prisoners are encouraged to analyse their past life, taking stock of their strengths and weaknesses and coming to terms with the people whom they have harmed through their addiction.

They are asked to write their life story, presenting it to the group. This can be emotionally gruelling for even the most hardened criminal. Sharing experiences with others who have similar backgrounds is intended to make the addict realise that his plight is not unique and it is possible to overcome addiction. There is also a daily programme of lectures, videos and counselling. This support continues with an extensive after-care programme once a prisoner has been released.

The programme is not an easy option. "We have to assess whether a person really

is an addict or whether he just wants to enjoy the softer regime of R Wing," Elmer Terry, RAPT's programme manager, says. "When someone is admitted it is essential that they remain clean and we ensure this through regular urine tests. If a positive result shows, the prisoner is removed from the wing for a fortnight. A second positive result and they are out."

Dealing with many wily customers, the programme workers are not easily duped. Most counsellors are former addicts and they know the tricks of the trade. John Mealyer, for instance, the senior counsellor at Pentonville, was an addict for 12 years and served four sentences for dealing, including one in Pentonville. During his treatment he discovered a natural aptitude for counselling and, once released, went on to Ruskin College, Oxford, where he took a diploma in multidisciplinary studies of drug misuse.

Some have doubted the genuine reform of such people. It has been argued that it is most unwise to give former inmates and addicts the keys to a prison wing. Clive Barber, the governor, believes that with careful security screening, this is justified. "I'm perceived as someone who is middle-class," he says. "I've never taken a drug in my life. If I said that I was going to counsel prisoners about drugs I'd have no credibility because I haven't been there. That's why there is a need for poachers turned gamekeepers."

For Mickey, the example of reformed prisoners is inspiring. "I look at people like that and think maybe I can do it as well," he says. Nonetheless, he found embarking on the programme daunting. "I was really scared at first... scared of telling people about myself... that's basically what this course is about — confessing everything. But soon I realised I wasn't the only one in trouble, not the only one who had done things while I was high. Once I realised that I just surrendered. I've been clean now for nine months."

His warders have noticed a marked change. "Mickey used to be aggressive and uncooperative," Officer Dominic Miqueluz says. "He still has a fiery temper but when he loses it now, he loses it less madly. What's more, he will apologise."

But the RAPT workers know that Mickey has taken only the first step. "It's always a mystery to the layperson why, after detoxing, you would want to start using again," Mr Terry says. "But drugs are a magnet. You can use them when you are feeling suicidal and know, that with one single fix, everything will be all right. You can escape."

It is still too early to measure how successful the programme has been. An independent study is due to be completed in January, but Mr Barber is convinced that drug addiction treatment should be available in every prison. However, there is not enough money for the service. "It's a disgrace really," Mr Barber says. "You just have to walk through R Wing to see the difference in the prisoners who go there. I've never heard of anyone reoffending once they have completed the course in this prison or any other."

The future of RAPT is uncertain. Although partially funded by the Government, as a charity RAPT depends on the generosity of charitable foundations for its survival. "Curing prisoners of drug addiction is not a cause to which people are sympathetic," Mr Trace says. "We encounter resistance from both outside and inside the Prison Service."

"Some people believe that anyone who offers welfare is a 'care bear' and is being manipulated by the prisoners. As a result, we are under tremendous pressure to prove ourselves." He is convinced that money spent on treatment is a worthwhile investment. "To date, only 10 per cent of those who have received treatment have relapsed, and none of those has reoffended."

Mickey is feeling optimistic for the first time in years. "Maybe it sounds a bit corny," he says, "but I always thought I was an addict and criminal, and that was me for the rest of my life. Now I think I can see a light at the end of the tunnel at last."

"It probably sounds like a bit of a contradiction in terms, but I only found freedom when I came to prison."

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How I found myself living in the past

MELVYN BRAGG



Interested in saints and the ideal of utter earthly sacrifice, the ambition of total purity. I'm sure examples exist of these in the world today, but the fact that the Celtic monks and nuns in the 7th century had left such clear traces

— traces which I thought I could track — made it easier for me to explore the roots of such matters. Distance gives confidence.

I am also interested in war, especially the ancient forms of hand-to-hand conflict — which is why boxing still holds an attraction. The notion of single combat which brings in memories from Thermopylae to Agincourt was something that could be explored in a 7th-century Britain in which the British were fighting for survival.

When I began to look again at previous authors of historical novels I discovered that they have much in common with what some of us are doing now. First they are taken into the past by a genuine fascination. Of Sir Walter Scott, it was reported that "his interest in the Old Border tales and ballads had early been aroused and were stimulated by Percy's relics ..."

Scott gives us another purpose for historical novels, in his attempt to keep the past alive and make it inspirational for the present. Here the past is used partly for propaganda, but this does not necessarily harm it as literature.

Sometimes a novelist of even the greatest strength can find a different release of energy in the past. Dickens's fascination with crowds and mobs is well known, but perhaps he never unleashed it as fully as he was able to do in one of his historical novels, *Barnaby Rudge*, in which he wrote: "My object has been to convey an idea of multitudes, violence and fury; and even to lose my own dramatic personae in the throng."

Allied reasons obtain today. In *Hawthorne*, Peter Ackroyd explores the idea of the recurrences of history, the cycles of events in

particular London locations. In *Every Man for Himself*, Beryl Bainbridge finds a contained and isolated world which allows her to concentrate wholly on the bounded passions which are at the heart of her fiction. George MacDonald Fraser, in *Black Ajax*, by detailing the savagery and blood of early prize-fighting in this country, not only vivifies that past but shows us what we wish to conceal about ourselves now.

It was *The Spire* by William Golding which, of all recent historical novels, first convinced me that the form had been dismissed by nothing more than the vice of fashion. When the two churchmen are talking about the model of the cathedral they might almost be chatting today — until the words: "The Foundations. I know. But God will provide." God does and, by taking us back into our medieval past, Golding convinces us that God does, and so unites the spire painted by Constable to the dream which came from the faith now thought defunct. As historical novels once appeared to be.

Are there any general reasons for what seems a sudden clustering of British writers taking up the recently despised and thought to be defunct historical novel? It is always a temptation to rush to a straight relationship between the conditions of the time and their consequences on art. I am not too sure that the relationship is as direct. Do turbulent times lead to turbulent art? Yes, sometimes — but here is a work of art from the same period which is serene, calm, a millpond. But that is a reaction to the turbulent times; without the turbulence the millpond would not have existed. These games could go on all day.

When I studied history I came to believe that there were independent strands within any overall scheme of things, and art often goes its own sweet way. Yet it is worth a paragraph to yield to the temptation to link our times with the revival of the historical novel, if only because it has become such a mantra. End of Empire. End of World Rule. End of Industrial

Might. End of English Domination of English Language. Beginning of Decline. Identity Crisis. Renaissance necessary ... Therefore, look to the past.

There could be something in this. But perhaps more important there are in the past very good stories and narratives, and now that literary writers have plucked up the courage to accept that big stories need not be the monopoly of pulp writers we can go out and get them. It could be as simple as that.

My experience is relevant here. The early Middle Ages fascinated me when I encountered them at university. Nearly 40 years later I wrote *Credo*. It took me that time not only to pluck up the courage and gather the material, but also to feel that the time was right to devote the concentration to something set so deeply in the past.

The first problem was to distinguish between history and histori-

cal fiction. There was a view that all history was merely "fictions" and that to write an historical novel did not involve tangling with historical disciplines. But we cannot write an historical novel unless we are aware of those disciplines and their difference from fiction. Equally, we must find a distance from the history or it will not be fiction.

There is something else that is almost impossible to describe, which is that you have to throw a gear in your mind: you have to have a talent to feel that you can understand the past, and believe that you can recreate it from the limited information available to you. But if you think you can take that plunge then what opens up is a prospect of engagement and an intensity very difficult to secure in the present.

For instance, I was brought up as a devout Christian and was

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"Predictable gimmickry and gross banality"? This is *Vehicles* by Angela Bulloch, one of the four artists shortlisted for this year's Turner Prize

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Nicholas Serota, the director of the Tate Gallery, had better watch his back on Wednesday when he opens the Turner Prize 1997 Exhibition. A gang of angry artists plans to demonstrate on the steps of the Tate against the "trivial, banal, insane, predictable, vacuous and idiotic exhibits" and demand, in words of few syllables, Serota's resignation. And they are prepared for a fight.

The protesters, a group calling themselves New Metaphysical Art, will tell Serota that he "presides over a monster which, year after year, with few exceptions, tramples on art and progressively muddies artistic judgment". How, they will ask, "can you invoke the name of the great visionary artist, Turner ... while the four finalists shortlisted for the prize this year represent, as in previous years, little more than predictable gimmickry and gross banality?"

New Metaphysical Art launched itself earlier this year from Sussex University with a bold crimson manifesto blaring against the "progressive trivialisation of art, the uncritical and endless use of parody and pastiche, against the ironic and clever habits of Post-Modernists ... and calling for a "new initiative in art making ... an art which is defiant, passionate, metaphysical and utterly inextinguishable".

The group is led by Peter Abbas, the poet and Sussex University lecturer, Anna Carlisle, the choreographer, Jonathan Harvey, the composer, and James Schneider, the painter. It is also backed by some weighty patrons including Michael Tippett, Yehudi Menuhin, Kathleen Raine and the Estonian composer Arvo Pärt. "We are absolutely serious about

The fogeys bite back

Joanna Pitman reports on the launch of a high-powered protest movement against the kind of art associated with the Turner Prize

"This," says Abbas, "All these predictable, tedious and jokey installation works are suppressing the ideas and imaginations of other young artists. There are of course some exceptions, but we don't like the status quo. The Establishment supports it all — the big collectors and the public galleries buy it, big business sponsors it and the media hypes it and ends up establishing people like Damien Hirst with such hideous fame."

"But my main concern is with aesthetic judgment. I just don't think it is art. It doesn't embody any personal meaning, or any way of interpreting the world. It fails to symbolise. At best these are bits of data, concepts."

Visitors to the exhibition should judge for themselves. Cornelia Parker's oeuvre includes a man's shirt on a coat hanger "burnt by a meteorite", earplugs made from fluff collected in the whispering gallery of St Paul's Cathedral and bits of silver cutlery dangled over the White Cliffs of Dover. Christine Borland will show leather "dolls"

containing replica foetal skulls. In one of Gillian Wearing's works, a video he would like to kill his mother. And in *Workbench*, the fourth finalist, Angela Bulloch, invites the public to sit on a bench and observe brown liquid flowing through a tube.

Barry Barker, a director of the Lisson Gallery which represents Borland, believes the Turner Prize will always attract controversy. "These are substantial works and they express new ideas. There are so many preconceptions about conceptual art and this kind of protest is pure prejudice."

But following the storm of heartfelt disgust voiced last month at some exhibits in the Royal Academy's *Sensation* exhibition, New Metaphysical Art appears to be bang in tune with a growing band who cannot abide the youthful hubris or brutally perverse candour embodied by many of these artists. What's more, artists such as Fiona Rae and Callum Innes are

yearning for a release from the manipulated frissons of the neo-conceptual vogue. Rae wrote in the catalogue to a recent show at the Saatchi Gallery that "it sounds so poetic and sad and out of date", to admit "you are trying to make something ideal". And Innes, shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 1995, has said defensively: "I don't see any harm in saying I'd quite like to create something that's beautiful to me."

Iris Murdoch, another patron of New Metaphysical Art, told the magazine *Modern Painters* in 1993: "There is a lot of terribly bad art around which isn't really art at all. There is a tendency to simplify, to offer a mere juxtaposition of objects. I think it is damaging to artists. People are lazy, they can't be bothered to learn difficult techniques, and they want to shock."

But the snort and the sneer can become bad habits. New Metaphysical Art is not just out to knock the current art fashions. It has a constructive agenda and intends to hold conferences, to develop a programme of research into the "current negative conditions for the creation of profound art and to sponsor the commission of works of meaning that will attempt to explore the re-physical state of human nature at the end of the 20th century."

New artistic talent and style cannot of course be ushered in by verbal decree. But New Metaphysical Art hopes to "create an animating culture which will rekindle the inspirational conditions for the flowering of all the arts and a climate of questioning, reflection and appreciation in its audiences". The traditionalists are poised to storm the rebel citadels.

Polished to a lasting shine

WHEN the Polish composer Krzysztof Komeda was killed in an accident in 1969, at the age of 37, his loss was seen as a blow to the film world, for which he had provided a great many scores, most famously for Roman Polanski's *Kill, Baby, Kill*. If the loss is now felt just as keenly in the jazz world, his compatriot and former musi-

cal collaborator, the trumpeter Tomasz Stanko, should take some of the credit. On *Litania*, which has been widely hailed as one of the finest European jazz albums of recent years, he has made Komeda's music live again in its intended milieu: on the stand, as material for spontaneous re-creation and reinterpretation.

What was so impressive about the performance at the Jazz Café by Stanko and his collaborators — saxophonists Benji Golson and Joakim Milder, pianist Bobo Stenson, bassist Palle Danielsson and drummer Jon Christensen — was the way in which they interpreted Komeda's music so as to accentuate all its considerable compositional qualities without compromising their own freedom.

Beginning with a haunting version of one of Komeda's most attractive themes, *Svante*, the sextet imbued it with all the grace, lyricism and poignant melancholy most commonly identified as Komeda's compositional hallmarks. Their solos, however, were very much their own. Stenson brought a swirling, powerful warmth to the band sound; his fellow tenor player Milder, by contrast, was attractively sparse and dry. Stenson provided moments of mellifluous elegance, while Stanko himself, his solos filled with a woozy sincerity leavened alternately by the odd virtuosic run or his trademark smeared vocalisations, brought a highly individual, but entirely appropriate, cracked dignity to all he played.

CHRIS PARKER

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LONDON CONCERTS

Bows drawn at a Walton adventure

It was a prospect to gladden the heart of all Waltonians: his concertos for violin, viola and cello, all within a single concert and conducted by one of Walton's most distinguished interpreters, André Previn. Any fears that it might all have been too much of a good thing were dispelled as Previn and his soloists — all of them London Symphony Orchestra section principals — realised the essential character of each work in turn.

The manuscript of the Viola Concerto (1928-29) was famously returned in the post by the leading violist of the day, Lionel Tertis, for whom it was written; he lived to regret his error, though not to record the work.

The concerto's prevailing mood, dictated largely by the nature of the solo instrument, is one of melancholy. Paul Silverthorne's dark-hued tone set the scene from the opening bars. The sprightly Scherzo movement is placed second (each of the concertos has one in a similar position) and there is a climactic point in the finale, but the closing bars return to the poignant reflections of the opening movement. Previn's reliable ear for balance allowed the delicate tones of Silverthorne's viola to penetrate the orchestral texture.

Walton's featherlight orchestration in the first movement of the much later Cello

LSO/Previn
Barbican

Concerto (1956) — vibraphone, celesta and harp all feature prominently — enables the soloist to engage in soliloquy unimpeded. The Scherzo is more robust, but soloist and orchestra often alternate and, where they overlap, Previn ensured that Tim Hugh had no difficulty making his presence felt.

In fact, Hugh was commanding not only in passages of quiet reverie, but also on the ecstatic heights to which the music rises in its latter stages. This was a beautifully controlled, finely expressive performance.

Finally came the Violin Concerto, in an eloquent reading by the LSO's leader, Alexander Barantchik. The work dates from a decade after the Viola Concerto, 1938-39, but the different nature of the solo instrument, perhaps coupled with the fact that it was written for Heifetz, resulted in a far more extrovert piece.

Paradoxically, the Violin Concerto is at the same time more virtuosic and more sweetly lyrical than its predecessor, and Barantchik's measured but always persuasive account did full justice to both qualities.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Songs of the heart

HOW to reinvent *Winterreise*? Schubert's last great song cycle is certainly getting the treatment lately, with many recompositions, stagings, and even a film in the offing. To attempt, with the help of a fortissimo of the intense intimacy of that first performance when Schubert himself sang the songs to his friends "in a voice wrought with emotion" seems a modest undertaking by comparison.

Yet this, of course, is the fiercest challenge of all, and the tenor Philip Langridge and the pianist David Owen Norris met it head-on. Confronted with formal rows of strangers in the spacious acoustic of St John's, Smith Square, they drew us in against all odds. The forte-piano was a reproduction of dynamic range. Too rare at times: when the knee pedals went into action, the sudden hush was so extreme that the dream of a linden tree would all but vanish into thin air, and engagement with the voice was momentarily and disruptively lost.

This, though, is to carp. The icy brightness of the instrument, activated by Norris's minutely imagined playing, aptly lit the cycle's physical world, as a dark cloud drifting through clear skies found new, sharper definition in the shorter, stark resonance. And

Philip Langridge
St John's

the night music of *Im Dorfe* took on new meaning: could that really be a little more in the left hand as Schubert paints the sleeping village?

This, of course, all belongs to the outer world of *Winterreise*: the inner journey of the soul belonged to Langridge. He has come late to the work and, as one might imagine, there is not a trace of any Liedersinger cliché or manner in his performance. It was, in the best sense of the word, acted out as tragedy, from the first intensely imagined dark sighing at the back of the voice, to the breathless desperation of the songs of frantic haste, where even rhythmic definition and intonation would be fleetingly sacrificed for the physicality of raw emotion.

A voice wrought with emotion would certainly make such sacrifices. And Langridge's determination to stretch the aching arpeggio of *Wasserflut* to overflowing, his ability to make the whole body ache with fatigue in *Rast*, and his withdrawal of all colour from the voice in the final song's spiritual snow-blindness — all made this a uniquely revelatory performance.

HILARY FINCH



Desmond Barritt and Eleanor Treman in the revival of Arthur Miller's family tragedy

Ham wrote Shakespeare, not Bacon

VORTIGERN? The name sounds almost familiar. Is he one of those ambassadors in *Hamlet* who get no chance to say anything because their roles are cut before the first rehearsal? Does he fit some about some hapless king defeated by the mighty Tamburlaine?

None of these, although *Cymbeline* comes closest. He is the eponymous hero of a tragedy written by William Henry Ireland but purporting to be a long-lost work by Shakespeare. Presented at Drury Lane in 1796, it was laughed off the stage before the final curtain and has not been professionally performed since.

Bearing in mind that the production 201 years ago never managed to reach the climactic siege at the Tower of London — where the hero sees Death and is harrowed by conscience — it would be accurate to say that Joe Harmston's production at the Bridewell is the first professional production ever.

Vortigern
Bridewell

to play Queen Rowena but came to doubt the play's authenticity and withdrew. Vortigern himself was played by John Philip Kemble, but two days before the play opened, the famous scholar Edmund Malone picked the bubble of its reputation and the scene was set for a riotous premiere.

The audience enjoyed themselves shouting "Richard III" and "As You Like It" whenever they recognised Ireland's sources, but after Kemble delivered the line "And when this solemn mockery is

ended," prolonged jeering brought the performance to an end.

So how good is it? Or how bad? Pretty bad. If it had fooled audiences of the time into believing it to be genuine, then it might interestingly show what Ireland's contemporaries were inclined to look for in a Shakespeare play. It did not do so, it cannot. The plot? Thus it is. Britain's king, feeling frozen age doth fast approach, appoints the good and noble Vortigern to share the crown. Disasters follow. The king dies, his wife is murdered, Vortigern's wife is troubled by lack of sleep. "I'll be the poppy," various children take

to the woods, with or without an accompanying fool.

But the play is a fascinating (because old) fraud. The reversals of war go on a bit, but Harmston directs the battles in elegant slow motion and finds a number of ways to animate the plot's frenetic developments. The cast speak the lines as if they were first stuff, although Ireland had no idea how to build a speech that will tap genuine emotion. James Simmons looks far too intelligent to have been content with Vortigern's impoverished thought, but he holds himself well and keeps a straight face. I would not have missed it.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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A portrait of a truly British vice

Angelica Goodden on Raeburn and our love for a likeness

The great Scottish portraitist Sir Henry Raeburn has arrived in London. The splendid exhibition of his work which opened on Friday at the National Portrait Gallery already looks likely to be greeted with enthusiasm as it was earlier this year in his native Edinburgh. We are well used to this kind of enthusiasm; but what can possibly account for the British love of portraiture?

It was so firmly established in Raeburn's time (1756-1823) that a contemporary remarked on how Britain had become a "scuff and byword among nations" on account of its obsession. In the civilised West, it is only the English-speaking nations that have national galleries specifically dedicated to portraiture: the three 19th-century institutions in London, Edinburgh and Dublin, and the 1960s austere thought in Washington. One wonders what special self-regard has fostered the art of portraiture here, while leaving it comparatively untended in state collections elsewhere. Or is self-regard not really the point at issue?

It would surely be absurd to suggest that the form of vanity which portrait-painting flatters is peculiar to Western anglophone nations, or that these countries have a stronger sense of the value of the self than their neighbours: although a case of this sort could probably be made in philosophical terms. Portraits such as Allan Ramsay and Raeburn were greatly influenced by the British tradition of philosophical empiricism, with its emphasis on the issues of personal identity, even if most of their clients were not. But when Ramsay — commissioned by David Hume — painted the Swiss Rousseau, the author of the greatest work of literary self-depiction in the French language objected strongly to the result. This was partly owing to his conviction that he alone possessed the key to his personality, but also because the power of visual images never impressed him.

The British fondness for portraiture seemed innocent to other foreigners, too. Grand Tourists shocked their Italian hosts by insisting on having their likenesses captured before they absorbed the greater artistic treasures awaiting their attention. Italian portraitists never made serious money from their own countrymen. If native philosophy and vanity were not the sole causes of this preoccupation with visual biography, the ideological climate of the 18th century may account for it in another way. Britain had never promoted self-effacement as a moral and religious ideal as tenaciously as other cultures. Nor, once the days of iconoclasm were past, did it fear the ungodly implications of creating an afterlife through paint: for most sitters, portraiture was a down-to-earth commemorative act, its very pragmatism, of course, explained both its popularity among ordinary clients — it was affordable and at home in

Only the English-speaking nations have national portrait galleries

serve an instructive purpose. Both views, of course, now seem hopelessly naive, although the idea that images of the great and good may inspire and edify the beholder remains a very potent one. It is merely unfortunate that worthiness, like other abstract qualities, is hard to depict in paint.

Raeburn was supremely skilled at capturing men and women — usually minor nobility and gentry — in the ordinary occurrences of life, where the distinctive features of character and psychology emerge most clearly. He also managed to convey the Enlightenment belief in the absolute clarity of the individual. The sharply delineated profile figure of the Rev Robert Walker skating, for instance, is as serenely autonomous as any modern in-line skater weaving through city traffic, if less threatened by his surroundings. But seen together, Raeburn's subjects illustrate the ideal blend of independence and the collective spirit, private rights and social values, that is also a major preoccupation of the present day. They are, additionally, a Scottish band, and their unassuming strength makes them worthy images of the new Scottish independence. In Raeburn, portraiture becomes modern history.

Dr Goodden's book *The Sweetness of Life: A Biography of Elizabeth Louise Vigée Lebrun* was reviewed in the Times on October 9.

middle-class surroundings — and its vilification. It was too middle-class for some tastes, and too British, utterly divorced from the elevation of the "grand manner". The portraitist Sir Joshua Reynolds, although knighted and elected President of the Royal Academy in London, was uneasy about portraiture's lack of dignity, and referred his fellow artists to the more glorious historical mode favoured by the French. History painting may have seemed to some a fitter way to celebrate the essence of the nation, recording great deeds of the past, but it never appealed to the British: as Blake remarked, it condemned the artist to a diet of bread, apples and perpetual frustration. History painting lacks intimacy and hence approachability; it can hardly be collected and hung in the home.

Yet the 19th-century founders of national portrait galleries were convinced that portraiture had a public role to play, too. Such galleries may have been created to exalt individuals, but it was for thoroughly moral reasons: Palmerston remarked at the time of the National Portrait Gallery's foundation in London that seeing portraits of people who have done commendable deeds is the greatest possible incentive to mental exertion, noble action and good conduct. The trustees, perversely, also thought that portraits of villains and criminals might serve an instructive purpose. Both views, of course, now seem hopelessly naive, although the idea that images of the great and good may inspire and edify the beholder remains a very potent one. It is merely unfortunate that worthiness, like other abstract qualities, is hard to depict in paint.

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Currency speculators who underestimate Beijing's political will are taking a dangerous gamble

Traditionalist though lawyers are, little Anglo-Norman law French survives in the late 20th century. It can, however, still be found in the Royal Assent to Acts of Parliament. Some conventional phrases survived well into the 18th century; when counsel rose to reply on behalf of the defendant in a civil case, he would open with the words, "may seeme al contrary". "It seems to me to the contrary". I feel like that about the Hong Kong panic in almost all respects.

It is assumed that this crisis shows the weakness of Hong Kong. I believe it shows Hong Kong's strength. It is assumed that this is essentially a stock market panic; in fact, it is a bear raid on a currency. It is assumed that the issue is financial; in truth, it is a political issue. It is assumed that this is a local issue; it is a world issue. In the United States, some people are arguing that the loss in Hong Kong will be a gain to America; what has been happening is at least as great a threat to the United States, not to mention Europe, as it is to Hong Kong and China. Most of the common assumptions are false. "May seeme al contrary" indeed, but more significantly "China's semble al contrary" — it looks different to China.

Currency speculators who think that the Hong Kong dollar is going to be devalued against the US dollar are thinking financially. By their lights, all fixed currency alignments are vulnerable, because no two economies will permanently move in a synchronised way. Nigel Lawson's experiment of shadowing the mark resulted in the boom of the late 1980s; John Major's experiment of joining the exchange-rate mechanism aggravated the recession of the early 1990s. The needs of the British and German economies moved in opposite directions at different times. This is a good argument against the Hong Kong dollar being permanently fixed to the

The dragon standing behind Hong Kong

American, and an even stronger argument against the European single currency, but it is not going to decide what happens in the next five years.

The speculators have failed to see the issue from the Chinese point of view. October is only the fourth month since China took over the sovereignty of Hong Kong. If Hong Kong were now forced to devalue, that would be more than a loss of face for China; it would be a political defeat. It would show that China was not able to maintain international confidence in Hong Kong; that would damage Hong Kong as a financial centre and China's political authority. In these circumstances, the Chinese Government was bound to act as Chancellor Kohl did when he aligned the East German currency at one-to-one with the West. They put politics ahead of economic theory. I expect President Jiang Zemin will make that clear to the Americans on this week's visit.

The speculators are therefore taking China on as well as Hong Kong. If Hong Kong had still been under British sovereignty, the limit of the reserves would have been those of Hong Kong itself. There would have been no question of the Bank of England — which was not strong enough to keep the pound in the ERM — intervening to preserve the Hong Kong dollar. Hong Kong's ability to maintain the link to the US dollar is now incomparably stronger than it was under British rule.

Stronger by the \$130 billion of China's foreign exchange reserves, and stronger from the support of China's political will. Speculators sometimes understand finance; they often misunderstand political forces. It is widely believed that the Hong Kong stock market is, or was, too high. Hong Kong property prices are high; the authorities, who aim to build 85,000 new apartments, want to make sure that they go no higher. Yet a glance at the FTSE4X Actuaries World Indices for last Friday shows

William Rees-Mogg

what the real situation is. Of the 28 stock markets listed, Hong Kong-China has the second highest dividend yield. Only Thailand is higher, and the Thai economy, unlike that of Hong Kong, is in real trouble. The United Kingdom has a respectable yield of 3.4 per cent; the United States has only 1.6; Germany has 1.4; Hong Kong-China has 4.2.

Hong Kong offers two or three times the investment value of the US market. China is the lowest cost and the fastest growing of the large industrial economies; 80 per cent of Hong Kong's exports are re-exports from China, based on Chinese labour

costs. Hong Kong has a real GDP growth of 5.5 per cent; China has 10 per cent, three times that of America. Hong Kong and China together have a current account surplus, and a ratio of debt to GDP, of about 12 per cent, a tenth of Italy's. The Chinese are entering a period of moderate deflation of the economy, and probably have two decades before their economy reaches the problems of full industrial maturity. China now has a \$40 billion trade surplus with America.

Apart from the high dividend yield, Hong Kong's prospective price-earnings ratio is now only about ten times, or less than half that of America. To match Hong Kong's price-earnings ratio, the Dow Jones index would have to fall well below 4,000; to match the dividend yield, it would have to fall below 3,000. Yet Hong Kong has much better growth prospects. On any basis of valuation, Hong Kong shares are better value and safer to hold. If, as some Americans believe, there should be a panic flight of portfolio investment from Hong Kong to the United States, that would take investors out of the summing pot into the fiery furnace.

There is a warning for the rest of the world. China-Hong Kong is the world's largest and strongest developing economy, with a good expectation of quadrupling in size over the next 15 to 20 years. Yet even Hong Kong last week suffered a serious speculative attack on the currency,

which forced higher interest rates, and created a stock exchange panic. About 90 per cent of all foreign exchange transactions in the world are now speculative; the central banks do not have enough money to cope with that. If this can happen to Hong Kong, what could happen to other countries with real problems?

The United States is probably near the end of a long, cyclical recovery, and Wall Street is higher than in 1929; the European Union is still deflating in order to merge the currencies of countries with unemployment averaging more than 10 per cent, and reaching over 20. South-East Asia has blown its financial fuse. All these economies are more vulnerable than China-Hong Kong. In such a world, one may wonder where future expansion will come from. Deflationary and speculative forces are stronger than the forces of expansion or stability. All the major regional economies have serious structural flaws.

Nothing important now happens in the global system without affecting every part of it. It is an ungoverned system; there is no world economic authority capable of controlling irrational speculation. China-Hong Kong is probably the most competitive economy on earth; with its best decades ahead of it. Eventually, the Chinese will drop the dollar peg for Hong Kong, when the dollar no longer seems a good enough currency; the political will of China intends that should not happen in the next five years. This political will, both in Hong Kong and in China, seems almost unshakable; it is hubris for speculators to bet against the rising economic power of the 21st century when the world is so close to the new century beginning. That is like betting against Britain in 1800, or the United States in 1900. One should always show respect to the rising sun.

Clowning around with the euro

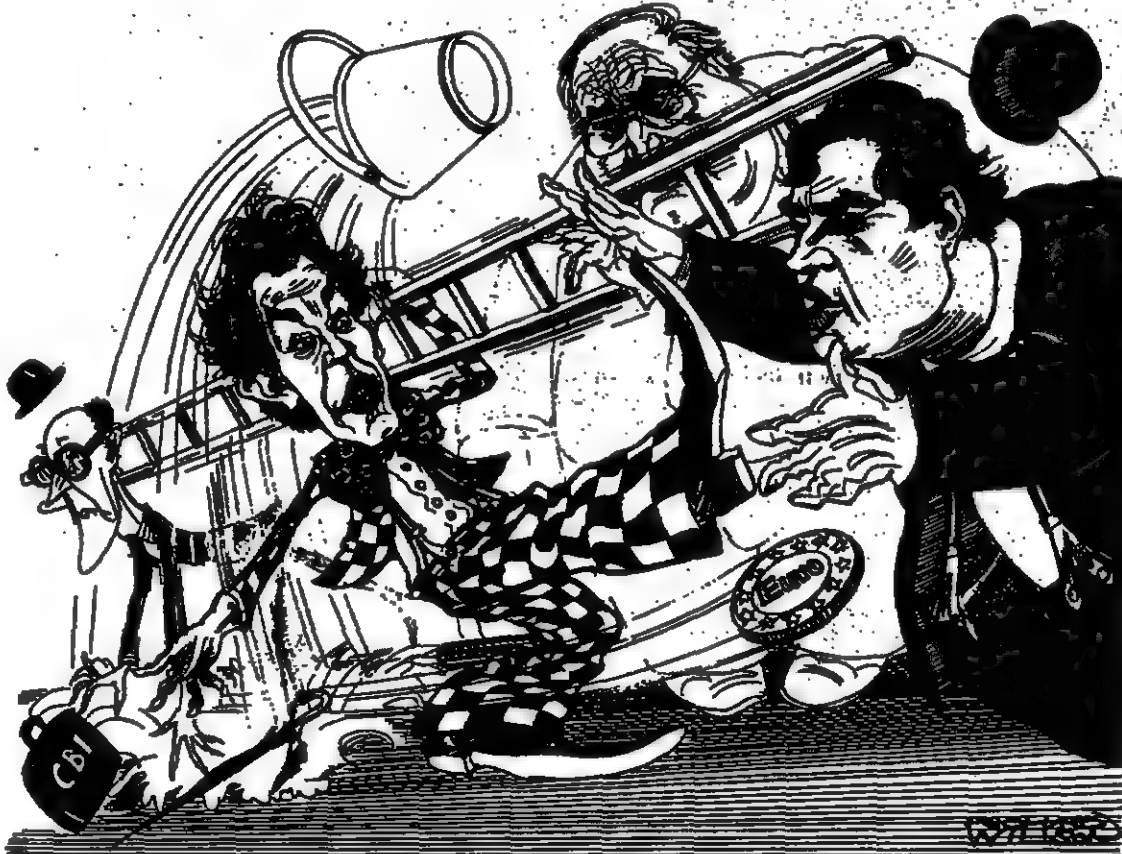
Mr Blair must learn from the single-currency debacle, says Peter Riddell

Tony, I was told by a member of the Blair inner circle, is "well aware what a disaster it's been". No wonder Tony Blair has appeared distracted at the Commonwealth summit. The confusion and recriminations of the past ten days have been about much more than the European single currency, crucially important though that is. They have exposed damaging flaws in the way that the Government is run.

For all the self-congratulatory talk in summer about a smooth transition, too many ministers and advisers have yet to make a full adjustment. They are behaving as if they were still in Opposition when media management and words mattered more than decisions. It is too often forgotten how many members of the Cabinet, including very senior ones, have not only never been ministers before, they have never had to take executive decisions of any kind.

That problem has been reinforced by the exclusive style of New Labour leaders operating like a revolutionary cadre on Leninist lines with a centralised structure. Policy comes from the top after being settled informally by Mr Blair and Gordon Brown in their frequent talks, rather than collectively. Mr Brown and his advisers have become adept at leaking new initiatives, often in a haphazard form than had been endorsed by the Shadow Cabinet, in effect bouncing colleagues.

All these traits have surfaced in the single currency saga. The statement that appeared in Mr Brown's interview in the Times nine days ago was agreed informally just with Mr Blair. Other key ministers were not involved in the wording of what was an



interior statement in response to press stories that week. It was essentially an exercise in spinning: the report about single currency membership being ruled out before the next election fairly reflected what was said, but it is only part of the story. Media advisers and spinners tend to oversimplify. The distinction between a forecast that Britain would probably not enter in this Parliament, and a decision that it would not, disappeared. The Sun has claimed that Charlie Whelan, the Chancellor's press officer, suggested the headline "Brown Saves Pound". That would have been a ludicrous distortion.

As will be clear from Mr Brown's statement to the Commons this afternoon, the true position is more

subtle. There has been little real disagreement at the top of the Government. No one has seriously been urging entry in 1999. Recently, there has been an acceptance that the divergence between the British and continental economies may last until 2000. Mr Blair is reluctant to take risks over his re-election to a second term by holding a referendum on a single currency then. Hence, entry is unlikely in this Parliament. The argument has been about whether this should be firmly ruled out, or merely described as unlikely. However, the activities of the spinners may have made the latter politically impossible without undermining Mr Brown. To reassure the pro-European

business should use the "period of stability" to prepare for later entry, and he will not rule out the key date of 2002, when the euro comes into full operation. This would also allow time for public opinion to be won round. A referendum could be held soon after an election in 2001, depending on whether economies have converged.

This position — cautious, but not unconditional, support for monetary union — has so far been obscured. The position is not irreversible, but serious damage has been done. Two of Mr Blair's key pre-election priorities were to create a new relationship between Labour and business and to give a leading role for Britain in Europe. Both have been jeopardised. Mr Brown's previously unchallengeable authority has been severely

shaken. He will have to live for a long time with last Monday's picture of the Stock Exchange board with red minus signs. Nevertheless, he remains a pivotal figure in new Labour, its intellectual heavyweight, matching Peter Mandelson's skills as a political operator. The word from the Blair camp, not least from Mr Mandelson, is that "Gordon must be supported". Mr Brown prefers operating with a close group of loyal advisers who often seem apart from the Treasury. Senior officials claim they are not listened to and do not know what the Chancellor wants. The same complaint is also heard in the Foreign Office. But Mr Brown needs to be more trusting and integrate his inner group more with the Treasury.

There are lessons also for Mr Blair in developing a more coherent process of policy formation. He likes informal discussions in his little office next to the Cabinet Room. But the absence of formal records of meetings can produce ambiguities about where he stands and what was decided — which, in part, fuelled the single-currency confusion. Although Mr Blair is in a commanding position in his Cabinet, even some of his strongest supporters have recently complained about being excluded. Correcting this is as much political prudence as constitutional propriety. Spinning also needs to be separated from policymaking. In Opposition, media management is the priority. But good government depends on considered policymaking rather than rapid rebuttal. Spinners should present, not make, policy.

Above all, Mr Blair needs to recognise that if he is to fulfil what he says about leading in Europe, he will make enemies. He cannot both be pro-European and sceptic enough to remain the backing of a populist nationalist paper like *The Sun*. He and his advisers are too worried about losing such support. Even if entry in 1999 was not on, the Government might still have won a referendum, later in the Parliament, and reshaped Britain's relations with Europe, and possibly also the British political landscape. Mr Blair may look back on October 1997 as a missed opportunity.

Last dance

APPRAISING young things waiting around in tight is no longer a priority of the Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson; he has resigned from the board of governors of English National Ballet.

Members of the company are said to be bitterly disappointed at Mandelson's decision to step down only 18 months after he was appointed, the full term of office being three years. "He felt that he no longer had enough time for us after he became a minister," says a deflated deputy director, Richard Shaw. "It came as rather a surprise because he clearly relished the role and considered it an enormous honour."

Some suggest that Mandelson was deeply distressed by the death of the company's patron, Diana, Princess of Wales. The pair met through the company and hit it off when they sat next to each other at a dinner at St James's Palace.

The Princess also had lunch with Mandelson the day her divorce became absolute. It is thought that she once suggested to the Royal Family that it should employ the mercurial minister to improve its image. Foolishly, they ignored her. Mandelson still enjoys observing a pious or a pas de deux but says that since becoming a minister, the position might prompt suggestions that he had a conflict of interest.

Casting has already begun to find a replacement for the board, whose 14 surviving members include the likes of the presenter

Angela Rippon, and Pamela Lady Harlech, social etiquette lecturer to the boys of Downside School. "We'd like to get another MP on the board," says Shaw, "preferably one who likes ballet."

Final edition

That right-wing thinker John O'Sullivan, a confidant of Baroness Thatcher, has told staff at the *National Review* in New York that he will be stepping down soon after nine years as Editor of the conservative journal. He is thinking of writing a book on multiculturalism, national identity and 'The American Question'. Should keep him busy.

Size matters

THEY have extravagant tastes, these baronets. Sir John Baddley, an accountant, has fallen foul of Horsham District Council for building too big a garage. Baddley, who lists destructive gardening among his hobbies in *Who's Who*, faces enforcement action for, quite simply, destroying too much of his garden.

Still worse is the animosity of his neighbours, a Mr and Mrs Murin, who have been monitoring pro-



ceedings from their frost-proofed windows. "We look out of our sitting room and see this enormous roof," says Mrs Murin, whose husband Ronald is a local magistrate.

Sir John, hiding out in his London office, is unrepentant. "The rules are for people with little cars," he says. "We've got a big Volvo estate."

Huw and cry

BRUISED egos are moping around Millbank, the BBC's Westminster HQ. Huw Edwards, of *Newsnight*, is to become chief political correspondent at the Beeb's News 24, the round-the-clock news channel. So what? Well, the BBC already has a chief political correspondent, that old heart-throb John Sergeant. And he is not happy.

"Politicians will think that Edwards has replaced John," says a sympathiser. "John may not look like Brad Pitt, but he is a bloody good operator."

Slim chance

IN A spirited attempt to control his fluctuating waistline, the Prime Minister has imported a rowing machine into his bedroom at No. 11. The device — an ugly, greyish thing which emits strange hissing noises — is designed to flatten out paunches such as Blair developed during a summer spent grazing on fusc grass and wild-boar ravioli in Tuscany.

"He told me that he'd installed a machine by his bed," says Sue Walker, a gold medalist rower and recent guest at No. 11. "He seemed very interested in rowing." Well he might be. A half-hour session on his new machine burns up 200 calories — equivalent to just one spoonful of his beloved pasta.

●TWEAKING with staff timetables has failed to raise the profile of *John Birt* over at the BBC. A bid from Classical Music magazine, telephoning the BBC in pursuit of Birt's photograph, was surprised to be asked: "Which programme does he work on?"



A date in Rotterdam: Francis Maude and Posh Spice

Rock on, it's Dry Spice

THE Purcell-loving Francis Maude, Tory culture spokesman, is the latest victim of the Conservatives' attempts to appear hip. Known as "Dry Spice" in the Shadow Cabinet, Maude has been coaxed into attending next month's MTV Europe Music Awards in Rotterdam, where the Spice Girls, Oasis and Prodigy are tipped to win awards. Normally one to stand by any winning flag, the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, is not attending. He blames boring old parliamentary business.

Maude's friends are astonished. "I thought Francis preferred a night in with a 19th-century novel but now I hear he has acquired an Oasis album," said one. There is a small problem: Maude was due to have a congenial supper with that old Tory grandee, Sir Archibald Hamilton. "Archibald is not a man to alienate," says a Maude associate fearfully. But just think of the prize, Maude (and wear some headphones).

JASPER GERARD



"All of our trains are running on time now"



NO MEANS NO

Brown must offer a single message

It may be a chastened Chancellor who rises this afternoon to clarify policy on the single currency, but Gordon Brown should not be repentant. His interview in *The Times* nine days ago was an honest attempt to end speculation about entry to EMU. Since then, mixed messages from the heart of government have betrayed an unhappiness among ministers with a stance of such clarity. Several senior figures in Tony Blair's administration want it to be resolute for indecision, firm for flexibility. But Mr Brown recognised last week that keeping the option to enter at any time, far from showing prudence, would lead to paralysis.

Mr Brown spoke out because he did not want to see this Government, like its predecessors, weakened by endless speculation about the timing of entry into a European monetary system. The fundamentals have not changed over the past nine days and neither need his stance. Mr Brown does not want the energy of this administration dissipated by a focus on one European adventure at the expense of a broader programme of reform. A Government with ambitions to reform welfare, improve education and modernise the health service, should not hazard all on such an enterprise. It would be a momentous step to surrender control of the central levers of economic policy at any time, but to contemplate doing so during this Parliament would be folly; the triumph of integrationist ideology over genuine pragmatism.

Industry may be unhappy with sterling's current strength but the level of the pound reflects, among other things, the divergence between economic cycles in Britain and on the Continent. Even those committed to eventual entry must recognise that greater convergence is an absolute precondition and not only in the relative health of economies but in their structures. The economies of our European partners must learn from Britain's supply side reforms of the last two decades and liberalise further if the single currency is not to impose unacceptable

strains on them which would render the whole project even more hazardous.

None of these developments is a sufficient condition for British entry but they are, even for honest advocates of integration, absolutely necessary. It would be foolhardy to assume that any satisfactory judgment on either of these points, let alone sufficient progress in other areas, could be made in the lifetime of this Parliament. Once that assessment about timing is made then there is no profit in keeping it private. A Government which recognises that it would be dangerous to embark on early entry should not leave any doubt in the minds of others. Those opposed to this policy must not be allowed to promote further ambiguity. With candour can come confidence.

Some in the Government may argue that Mr Brown has little to lose if he leaves a small space for doubt. It has been suggested that the Chancellor might announce that he will review Britain's prospects for entry annually. Leaving aside the damage to the credibility of a minister who would have been seen to retreat from a position so recently staked out, such a course would only institutionalise instability. Every review would be preceded by the speculation in the press and on the markets, which Mr Brown is so anxious to banish. The price of maintaining a notional flexibility on the euro would be the forfeiture of the freedom to concentrate on more pressing matters.

It is not necessary to oppose the single currency on principle to appreciate the wisdom of opting out now. Mr Brown's statement will, inevitably, reflect his desire to take Britain in, if at all possible, at another opportunity. The steps to make such entry easier will be spent out with some enthusiasm. Many of them will be prudent in themselves. They should not, however, overshadow the most important message Mr Brown must communicate in terms which leave no doubt in the markets or among voters — the pound will not be abolished in this Parliament. No must mean no.

LOCKERBIE AWAITS JUSTICE

Cook cannot compromise with Gaddafi

Jim Swire, a spokesman for the British relatives of those killed in the Lockerbie bombing, yesterday voiced their frustration with the impasse over prosecuting the indicted Libyans. Using the occasion of a Commonwealth summit in Scotland, he called for a trial in a third country — probably at the International Court of Justice in The Hague — as a way of getting the two accused before a court. His distress is understandable. It is now nine years since the plane was brought down. Yet the world has been unable to persuade Colonel Gaddafi to send the two men for trial in Scotland or America. The two Governments and the Libyan leader have been waiting for each other to give way first.

President Mandela echoed Dr Swire's call at the weekend, but for very different reasons. He arrived in Edinburgh straight from Tripoli, where he was courted by Colonel Gaddafi, shamelessly exploiting the prestige of a visit by Africa's leading statesman. Mr Mandela insisted that he was only carrying a message. He did not claim that there could be no fair trial in Scotland. He has allowed the Libyan dictator to make mischief and issue propaganda as a diversion from the real issue: the extradition of those accused of the crime of mass murder. It is consistent with his preposterous claim last month that British Intelligence arranged the car crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, and Dodi Fayed, because Mr Fayed was of Libyan origin. He said he would hand over the Lockerbie suspects when Britain handed over its unnamed intelligence officers.

Robin Cook sensibly invited Dr Swire to discuss the case. The gulf between the

embittered relatives and the Government is unfortunate and unnecessary. They believe they have been caught in a political cover-up over the origins of the plot against Pan Am, and say that Britain should break ranks with America and agree to a trial in The Hague. Mr Cook explained, privately and publicly, the very real obstacles to such a plan. A trial could hardly be held under Scots law without a Scottish jury. Such a jury could not really be selected and then sequestered abroad, possibly for months. A Scottish court with a Dutch jury would be a "Tower of Babel" without any proper knowledge of procedure, Mr Cook noted. His final compelling argument is simple realpolitik: the American Government and most relatives of the American victims — who were the majority — would never agree. The Americans hold the bulk of the crucial evidence: without their co-operation no convictions would be possible.

The stalemate has gone on far too long. Mr Cook is right to look for new ideas and insist that he is not rejecting a proposed compromise simply out of dogma. He must make it clear to the relatives that there is no political cover-up, and open for them any evidence linking the bombing with an Iranian revenge attack. He is also right to listen to Mr Mandela and use him to attempt some fresh dialogue with Colonel Gaddafi when he calls in again on Tripoli on his return. On the central point, however, Mr Cook cannot shift: a Scottish court can deliver impartial justice. The accused must face their accusers, and if Libya continues to block this proper course it must face the threat not simply of prolonged sanctions but of increased sanctions.

WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Villeneuve's victory caps a classic season for Formula One

Motor racing desperately needed the season that concluded with the European Grand Prix yesterday. The sport had become dangerously predictable. The contest for the championship had lost its excitement. Man seemed to be secondary to the quality of the machine. The quest for technical perfection appeared to have eclipsed the human element. Even Murray Walker was beginning to sound restrained. Formula One risked becoming tedious at 200 miles per hour.

The showdown between Jacques Villeneuve and Michael Schumacher could scarcely have been more exciting. The Canadian's Williams and the German's Ferrari have fought an intense battle all season. The means by which Schumacher left the race — and attempted to take his opponent with him — will be the source of enduring controversy. Nonetheless, as Gilles Villeneuve, the new champion's late father, once observed, motor racing is a body contact sport. It is all the more ironic that Villeneuve Sr met his untimely death on the track 15 years ago while in a Ferrari. He never had the chance to secure the crown now held by his son. This is a highly improbable sport to have a hereditary class. But Jacques Villeneuve now follows Damon Hill in that regard.

The contest has been sharpened by the characters of the leading contenders. Villeneuve, like his father, is in the flamboyant

tradition of an era past. Until the entirely atypical outbreak of caution on the last lap, his style in the European Grand Prix had been that of his whole season. Villeneuve either comes first or crashes out. Anything else is the real accident. His triumph has echoes of the enthralling title secured by James Hunt — "Hunt the shunt" — 20 years ago. Hunt never came close to winning again. Villeneuve will have that opportunity. Schumacher, like Nikkī Lauda in the 1970s, is the complete professional. He has taken an unreliable Ferrari to the brink of the title. He is paid approximately £1,000,000 per race and his team has had value for its money. He was let down by his car again yesterday. Even in defeat, he has nailed the myth that the driver is an irrelevance in modern motor racing. Damon Hill, unceremoniously sacked by a Williams outfit who apparently believed precisely that, will have taken some pleasure in his old rival's performance.

Formula One will now pack up for a few fleeting months. Villeneuve and Schumacher will resume their rivalry again next year. Ferrari, after 18 years in the cold, may at last take the championship. Williams will attempt to maintain its superiority. Damon Hill will start with a new team and the support of the British public. This sport of playboys and professionals, on yesterday's form, will be all the better for it.

Public opinion as key to EMU entry

From Sir Michael Palliser and others

Sir, One of the key considerations in the Government's decision about when and if Britain should join the single currency is apparently whether the public would, after the issues had been fully discussed, endorse entry in a referendum. On current evidence, with industry, business and trade unions united around a positive position on EMU, such a referendum could and would be won.

The single currency has the potential to be a popular change. Contrary to some reports, recent polling shows rising numbers open to persuasion about the merits of EMU membership. A Gallup poll for the European Movement in July showed 74 per cent of people could be persuaded of the merits of British participation in 1999. Only 19 per cent were opposed, in principle.

A campaign in favour of the single currency which brought together business, trade unions, and politicians of all parties would be a powerful combination. Certainly, fear of hostility from certain sections of the press should not be allowed to stand in the way of a decision to join EMU as soon as practicable.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL PALLISER (Chairman),
GEOFFREY HOWE,
ROY HATTERSLEY,
GILES RADICE,
CHRISTOPHER TUGENDHAT,
ALAN WATSON,
STEPHEN WOODARD,
SHIRLEY WILLIAMS,
European Movement Advisory Council,
52 Horseferry Road, SW1,
October 24.

From Sir Michael Spicer, MP for Worcestershire West (Conservative)

Sir, Your otherwise excellent leader of October 20, "Ins and outs", contains one error, namely its reference to "the requirement for unanimity on most of the major decisions of economic governance under the treaties of Rome, Maastricht and Amsterdam".

It is true that the Rome and Maastricht treaties demand such unanimity. Amsterdam, however, contains a "flexibility clause" designed to allow the most federalist countries to forge ahead without the consent of more reluctant countries. Moreover, any State judged by the other governments to be guilty of a human rights infraction can have all its voting rights suspended without appeal to any judicial body whatever.

Taken together, these two clauses amount to the decommissioning of the national veto.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL SPICER,
House of Commons,
October 20.

From Dr P. Glaister

Sir, For my part, I am hoping that the EMU native to Europe will display the same characteristics as its antipodean namesake. Despite a profuse amount of flapping, it never succeeds in getting off the ground.

Yours faithfully,
P. GLAISTER,
3 Innow Road,
Earley, Reading, Berkshire.
p.glaister@reading.ac.uk
October 25.

Not me, guv!

From Mr Geoff Hoop, MP for Ashfield (Labour)

Sir, Since I spent the summer helping to prepare the Government's plans for fundamental reform of the legal system, I was surprised to discover that I had been "fingered" as a suspected source of the great Euro-leak ("The case of the murderous messenger", October 25).

No caution was given. No rights read. My statement was not tape-recorded. Am I still presumed innocent before the court of *The Times*? It was not me, guv!

I will not get a conditional fee for my defence. Legal aid will still be available. I am sure that lots of lawyers will see my defence as an excellent opportunity to show their approval of the Government's plans for law reform.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFF HOOP,
Parliamentary Secretary,
Lord Chancellor's Department,
House of Commons,
October 26.

Caught on camera

From Mr Jonathan Robson

Sir, Tim Jackson (letter, October 22) suggests that drivers tailgated by others attempting to bully their way past should point a video camera at them to make them back off.

May I suggest an alternative for those who have no camera. Simply pull into the next lane to the left, thus allowing the driver who wished to travel faster to pass.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN ROBSON,
Gir House,
Burton Bradstock, Bridport, Dorset,
October 22.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Living wills' offer voice to the dying

From the General Secretary of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society

Sir, Mr Gerard Wright, QC (letter, October 22), says that advanced directives ("living wills") are "much cherished" by this society.

Patients already have a common-law right to refuse treatment contemporaneously even though that may hasten death. In recent years it has been recognised through case law that this right has been extended to include an advance refusal of treatment by way of an advance directive. This has been acknowledged by the British Medical Association, amongst others. The Law Commission's draft Mental Incapacity Bill seeks to clarify the existing situation in the interest of patients and their doctors.

Doctors frequently make decisions to withhold or withdraw treatment from gravely ill patients with or without their consent, as it is thought more humane that they be allowed to die. However, I believe it is important that patients should have the opportunity to make their wishes known. This is only always possible if they draw up an advance directive while *compos mentis*, to take effect should they lose the ability to make decisions.

In my experience many people, particularly the elderly, are given great comfort by signing and lodging an advance directive with their doctor. It is estimated that about half a million people in the United Kingdom have them.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN OLIVER,
General Secretary,
The Voluntary Euthanasia Society,
13 Prince of Wales Terrace, W8,
October 22.

From Lady Engle

Sir, Mr Wright is clearly wrong. If I am unconscious, it seems unlikely that I will "die in agony" when deprived of hydration.

People making advance directives are asked to update them (by means of a sticker) each year. And, in any case, the form only becomes valid "[i]f two independent physicians (one a consultant) are of the opinion that I am unlikely to recover from illness or impairment involving severe distress or incapacity for rational existence". When the time comes, the two doctors will obviously take account of the current state of medical science.

Living wills are not part of "the culture of death", but part of a culture that allows individuals the choice of not being kept alive artificially in a state of degeneration and indignity.

Cold War propaganda

From Mr Michael Nelson

Sir, I agree with Robert Elphick (letter, October 24), that the Information Research Department (IRD) ought to be given due recognition for its sterling service in countering communist propaganda.

One of the reasons the IRD has not received the recognition it deserves is the common view that propaganda is a pejorative term. This view is held today by many in the BBC. But at the height of the Cold War the BBC well understood that there was nothing reprehensible in drawing on IRD material for use in the propaganda war the BBC was itself engaged in.

In the late 1940s Sir Ian Jacob, then Director of the Overseas Service of the BBC and later to become Director-General, wrote:

It is evident that any country desiring to

The Lord Chancellor's intention to introduce legislation to give legal validity to living wills represents real progress.

Yours sincerely,
IRENE ENGLE,
32 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6,
October 22.

From the Director of the Natural Death Centre

Sir, Mr Wright states that "there are strong grounds for believing that... [a] person who is deprived of hydration... will die in agony".

A study by Andrews and Levine published in 1989 (see *Creative Endings*, Natural Death Centre, p33) indicates the contrary: 82 per cent of the nurses surveyed disagreed with the statement that dehydration is painful for terminal patients; 71 per cent agreed that dehydration reduced the incidence of vomiting; 51 per cent reported a relief from choking and drowning sensations when fluids are discontinued; and 53 per cent agreed that dehydration can be beneficial for terminal patients.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS ALBERRY, Director,
The Natural Death Centre,
20 Heber Road, NW2,
October 22.

From Dr Peggy Norris,
Chairman of Alert

Sir, Mr B. J. Mitchell's suggestion (letter, October 20) that "mercy killing" should be a different offence from murder, discrimination against the mentally incapacitated and the senile. Such discrimination has already been taking place since the law lords' judgment in the case of Tony Bland (February 4, 1993).

Since then, 11 more severely disabled patients have been caused to die by the withdrawal of food and fluids, thus destroying England's record of protecting every citizen. There is evidence that other people too have died in this way, without their cases being heard in court. When 85-year-old Mrs Mary Ormerod died in a nursing home in 1995 she weighed under four stone; her special food having been stopped on the orders of the doctor.

Restoring the law on homicide which was altered by the Bland judgment is a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,
PEGGY NORRIS,
Chairman, Alert,
Information on Euthanasia,
27 Walpole Street, SW3,
October 21.

embark on a service of broadcast to foreign audiences does so because it wants to influence those audiences in its favour. All such broadcasting is therefore propaganda.

Ten years later, shortly before he became Director-General, Sir Hugh Green devoted much of an address to the Nato Defence College in Paris on psychological warfare to a description of the BBC and propaganda. He did not hesitate to use the word propaganda frequently.

As we celebrate the BBC's 75th birthday we should not fail to recognise the BBC's outstanding service in helping to bring down communism through propaganda.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL NELSON,
(Author, *War of the Black Heavens: The Battles of Western Broadcasting in the Cold War*, Brassey's, 1997),
21 Lansdowne Road, W11,
October 24.

Favourite firsts

From Mr H. W. Harrison

Sir, I've been enjoying your letters (October 18, 20, 25). For myself, I shall never forget the (a) opening, and (b) closing lines of *John Halifax, Gentleman* (Mrs Craik, 1856) which I first read over 75 years ago:

(a) "Get out o' Mr Fletcher's road, ye idle, lounging lidle—"
(b) No, thank God, she was not a widow now.

And what a splendid novel that was! I still have my "Everyman's Library" edition, now rather worn.

Yours truly,
H. W. HARRISON,
42 Thirlmere Avenue,
Allestree, Derby.

From Mr Cador Roberts

Sir, As a member of the British Hardware Federation, naturally I favour "Lee Chong's" grocery, while not a model of neatness, was a miracle of supply." (Cannery Row, John Steinbeck).

Yours etc,
CADOR ROBERTS,
38 Station Road, Woodford Halse,
Baventry, Northamptonshire,
October 20.

Motoring madness

From Mr J. N. Farrow

Sir, What a good idea to hold the conference on rural traffic (report, October 21) in London!

Yours truly,
J. N. FARROW,
Dunham Hall,
Dunham, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
October 21.

Sport letters, page 32

College fees and Oxbridge intake

From the Headmaster of Merchant Taylors School

Sir, The decision by Cambridge University, in response to the Government's threat to cut extra funding for college fees, that it is to increase by one third the number of students recruited from state schools (report, October 20) is ill-conceived. If Cambridge wishes to be more egalitarian, as opposed to merely appearing to be more egalitarian, it should seek to increase the proportion of students who come from low-income families.

Reducing the intake of students from independent schools indiscriminately may well mean that Cambridge becomes more socially elitist, as it replaces those on assisted places and scholarships in the private sector with yet more children from the prosperous middle class, who are attending sixth-form colleges or grant-maintained schools in leafy southern suburbs.

If the Government is to provide extra funding to keep the unique Oxbridge tutorial system it should do so because it believes the benefits are worth paying for — and not because the ancient universities attempt to keep their privilege by bowing to political correctness in the selection of undergraduates.

Yours sincerely,
S. J. R. DAWKINS,
Headmaster,
Merchant Taylors School,
Crosby, Liverpool L23 0QP,
October 21.

From the Headmaster of St Albans School

Sir, On the matter of Cambridge University's expressed desire to increase the proportion of pupils it recruits from maintained schools, may I applaud the excellent good sense embodied in your leading article of October 21, "Quadrangles and quotas".

The analogy with the dissolution of the monasteries is apt. However, one could sympathise more readily with the "cowards" of 16th-century history faced with a monarch likely to cut off their heads than with the abolition of a proud university to convert political bias into a far more eager to chop off merely their college fees.

Oxford and Cambridge claim to unique status rests on an absolute commitment to academic excellence which could not survive an admission system that discriminated on any grounds other than talent. One must also question the morality of discriminating against the offspring of fee-paying parents who have relieved the State of the burden of educating their children at secondary level; they are entitled to expect equality of access for their children to the higher education system for which they have helped to pay.

Oxford and Cambridge are faced with a situation similar to that confronted by the direct grant schools 20 years ago. They could do worse than take a leaf out of our book. Independence has in no way damaged our academic standards.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW GRANT,
St Albans School,
Abbey Gateway,
St Albans, Hertfordshire,
October 21.

Status of teachers

From Mr J. J. Beere

Sir, Well said, the Reverend P. P. S. Brownless (letter, October 22).

My teacher girlfriend gets into her inner-city comprehensive at 8am. After teaching a full day, covering for absent colleagues, supervising children during breaks, attending departmental meetings, and completing administrative tasks, she returns home at 6pm and embarks upon at least two hours' work preparing lessons and marking books. She is a graduate of a fine university, has taught for five years and is generally recognised as extremely competent.

She is currently paid a salary so derisory that she is ashamed to reveal it. The drudgery of her workload and the poverty of her reward means that she will be leaving the profession at the end of the year, irrespective of whether she has found alternative employment.

Slick commercials (report, October 15) will not raise the status of this particular profession. Hard cash and shorter working hours will.

Yours sincerely,
J. J. BEERE,
21a Westwick Gardens, W14,
October 22.

Bells are still ringing

From Mr William D. Meslin

Sir, I was amused to read (report, Business, October 21) that Stephen Finer, Managing Director of Cater Deal, an execution-only stockbroker, "had to pick up the phone for the first time in 20 years" because of the "pandemonium" when two of the new automated trading systems faltered.

Perhaps he could have a word with my wife, who has never put the phone down for the last 15 years of marriage.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM MESLIN,
11 The Green,
Mistley, Marnborough, Essex,
October 21.

COURT CIRCULAR

PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE
October 25: Mr Nelson Mandela (President of the Republic of South Africa), the Hon Sir John Gubbins (Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu), Mr Muhammad Nawaz Sharif (Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan), Dr the Hon Keith Mitchell (Prime Minister of Grenada) and Dr the Hon Navin Chandra Ramphal (Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius) were received by The Queen this morning.

His Excellency Maumoon Abdul Gayoom (President of the Republic of Maldives) was also received by The Queen when Her Majesty presented him with the insignia of an Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

The King of Swaziland, Senior Joachim Chissano (President of the Republic of Mozambique), the Hon Dr Alfred Sanjiv (Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago) were entertained to luncheon by The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

Her Majesty and His Royal Highness this evening gave a Reception for Ministers and Senior Officials attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Commonwealth Centre, Edinburgh, in the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 25: The Duke of York, Trustee, this morning visited the University of York, Canada, and presented The Prince Andrew Cup.

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a meeting of the Lakefield College School, Ontario, Canada, and presented The Prince Andrew Cup.

The Duke of York this evening attended a Dinner given by the Headmaster of Lakefield College School.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 25: The Prince Edward, Trustee, this morning visited the University of York, Canada, and presented The Prince Andrew Cup.

His Royal Highness, accompanied by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan (Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards RNR), this morning visited the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation and toured the Cardiff Bay area, which includes a visit to Technique.

The Prince Edward afterwards opened the Astronaut all weather pitch at Whitthurst High School.

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited HM Prison Prescot, UK, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Gwent (Sir Rich-

Birthdays today

Lord Ashdown, 81; Lady Baden-Powell, former Chief Commissioner, Girl Guides Association, 86; Mr David Bryant, bowler, 66; Mr John Clee, writer and actor, 58; Vice-Admiral Sir John Cox, 69; Dr John Dingle, President, Hughes Hall, Cambridge, 70; the Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl, 88; Sir Paul Fox, former managing director, BBC Television, 72; Lord Glendyne, 71; Mr Glenn Hoddle, England football team coach, 40; Sir John Hunt, former MP, 68; Mr P.T. Hurst, Chief Training Master of the Supreme Court, 55; Lieutenant-General Sir Maurice Johnston, 67; Lieutenant of Wilshire, 68; Sir Raymond Johnson, former chairman, Forestry Commission, 66; Mr Nicholas Jones, director of corporate finance, Lazard Bros, 51; Admiral Sir John Kerr, 66; Sir Brian McGrath, royal assessor, 72; Sir Anthony Meyer, former MP, 77; Sir Frank Roberts, former diplomat, 90; Mr Leonard Rosoman, painter, 85; Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm Ross, controller, Lord Chamberlain's Office, 54; Professor R.E. Supple, FBA, former Master, St Catharine's College, Cambridge, 67; Mr Chris Tavaré, cricketer, 43; Dr A.W. Tyson, FBA, musicologist and psychoanalyst, 71; Air Chief Marshal Sir John Willis, 60; Mr A.N. Wilson, author, 47.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 25: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chancellor, the British Overseas Trade Board, this afternoon arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Seoul, Korea. Mr Nicolas Adamson was welcomed.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, Adelaide Festival Anniversary Appeal, this morning attended a Concert at the Adelaide Festival Centre, Adelaide, Australia, and presented Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of South Australia (the Lord Belconnen).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 25: The Queen this morning attended Divine Service in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, to mark education and the Commonwealth, and was received by the Minister of the Very Rev Giles Macmillan.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 25: The Duke of York, Trustee, this morning attended Chapel at Lakefield College School, Ontario, Canada.

His Royal Highness, Patron, this evening attended a Dinner given by Round Square at Appleby College, Toronto, Canada.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 25: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, attended a "Commonwealth in Concert" evening at the Playhouse Theatre, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 25: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at a Reception, Concert and Dinner given in aid of the Wavendon Community Project, York City, United States of America.

Arbitrators' Company
The following have been elected officers of the Arbitrators' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr I.W. Barrington, Senior Warden, Mr M.H. Hinton Junior Warden, Mr J.C. Mackie.

Today's royal engagements
The Queen will visit Chungking Picture Tubes, Macclesfield, Lancashire at 11 and open the new plant. The Duke of Edinburgh, as honorary member, will attend a Rotary Club of Windsor and Eton luncheon at the Castle Hotel, Windsor, at 12.45. Later he will present the Prince Philip Designers Prize 1997 at a Design Council reception at Grosvenor House at 6.30.

Prince Edward, patron, National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, will attend a reception and luncheon to launch the new sponsors for the theatre at the Royal Garden Hotel, London, at 1.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester will visit a Tale of Two Cities - Royal Copenhagen in London exhibition at Royal Copenhagen, 15 New Bond Street, at 6.30.

Nature notes

ON SUNNY, frosty mornings, some skylarks sing for a while over the fields where a layer of mist rises as the frost melts. Carrion crows turn over the clods on ploughland; if jackdaws come down to feed near them, they take care not to get too close. Lesser black-backed gulls also gather on the furrows, often on farms far inland.

Redwings have come down from northern Europe and will spend the winter here; they have a red patch under the wing which flashes brilliantly when the low sun catches them in flight. They have two distinctive calls, a thin, high-pitched note, and a soft, snuffling clucking.

Most of the acorns have fallen from the oaks and the



The redwing catches them in flight. They have two distinctive calls, a thin, high-pitched note, and a soft, snuffling clucking.

Baron Goodhart

The life barony conferred upon Sir William Howard Goodhart, QC, as Baron Goodhart, of Yorkville in the County of Oxfordshire.

Baron Brooke of Alverthorpe

The life barony conferred upon Mr Clive Brooke has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Brooke of Alverthorpe in the County of West Yorkshire.

Latest wills

John Loftus Leigh-Pemberton, artist, of London SW15, left estate valued at £2,201,251 net.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis Graham Smallwood, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £180,000 net.

Lady Teasdale, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £181,226 net.

Lady Weiss, of Little Marlow, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £133,938 net.

Agnes Joanna Kyrle Younger, of Kirby Underwood, York, left estate valued at £75,192 net.

Lady Reid, of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, left estate valued at £27,500 net.

Marjorie Phillips, of Sandbach, Cheshire, left estate valued at £151,976 net.

Master, Mr I.W. Barrington, Senior Warden, Mr M.H. Hinton Junior Warden, Mr J.C. Mackie.

Private view

Delegates of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting attended a private view of the annual open exhibition for young Commonwealth artists held yesterday at Edinburgh College of Art, Sir Geoffrey Elton, Chairman of the Royal Overseas League, and Mr Robert Newell, director-general, welcomed the guests.

Concert

Royal Overseas League
The Royal Overseas League held a concert of young Commonwealth musicians on Saturday evening at the Queen's Hall, Edinburgh. Sir Geoffrey Elton, chairman of the league, and Mr Robert Newell, director-general, received the guests at a reception held afterwards.

Service dinners

Headquarters North
Commander R.J. Butler presided at the annual Trafalgar Night dinner of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines personnel held on Saturday at NATO Headquarters North, Stavanger, Norway.

Commander Allied Forces North Europe, and Mrs Frivold were the principal guests.

Naval 8/206 Squadron
An annual dinner was held at the principal guest of the annual dinner of the Naval 8/206 Squadron Association held on Saturday at the RAF Club, Air Commodore B.C. Laite, chairman, presided.

Squadron Leader M.P. Christy, Officer Commanding, No. 206 Squadron, also spoke. Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Stur, president, attended.

Dinner

The Cavaliers
The Cavaliers Club held a dinner on Saturday evening at the House of Commons to honour the 30th anniversary of the formation of the club. Mr Tom Brake, MP, was the guest of honour.

Mr C.V. Gooneratne, Mr Lakshmi Lijayaratne, President of the Cavaliers, Mr Ivan Corra, Sir Christopher Martin-Jenkins and Mr Alan Confort were among those present.

Marriages

Mr J.L. Leslie McNeill and Miss E.J. Thorp
The marriage took place on Saturday, at the Grosvenor Chapel, London, W1, of Mr J.L. Leslie McNeill, elder son of Mr Hamish and Lady Eliza Leslie McNeill, of Lochinch, Ross-shire, to Miss Emma Thorp, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Thorp, of Guildford, Surrey. The Rev S. Hobbs officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Flora Archibald, Thomas and Edward Huxley, Mr Edward James was best man.

A reception was held at Clavering, and the honeymoon is being spent in the Bahamas.

Mr E.J. Powell and Miss P.H. Mobber
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St John the Baptist, Little Missenden, Buckinghamshire, of Mr E.J. Powell, son of Mr and Mrs John Powell, of West Kensington, to Miss Penelope Mobber, younger daughter of Sir Nigel and the Hon Lady Mobber, of Prides Risborough, Buckinghamshire. The Rev D.R. Huxley officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Lucinda Mobber, Anna Heales, Miss Rosalind King-Irwin and Mrs Simon Ansell. Mr Adrian Clarke was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride, and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr J.A. Kennedy and Miss P.C.A. Linsell
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Etheldreda's, By Place, of Mr J.A. Kennedy, son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Kennedy, of Twickenham, Hampshire, to Miss P.C.A. Linsell, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edmund Linsell, of Parnborough, Hampshire. Father J. Cunningham officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Gabriella Macpherson and Josephine Wain. Mr Andrew Kennedy was best man.

A reception was held in the Crypt at St Etheldreda's, and the honeymoon will be spent in Scotland.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Cook, navigator, Martin, Yorkshire, 1728; James Macpherson, poet and politician, Ruthven, 1736; Niccolò Paganini, violinist, Genoa, 1782; Sir William Smith, founder of Boys' Brigades, Thurso, 1834; Theodore Roosevelt, 36th American President 1901-09, New York, 1858; Dylan Thomas, poet, Swansea, 1914.

DEATHS: Athelstan, King of the English 924-940, Gloucester, 940; Lucius Abercrombie, poet and critic, London, 1938; George Mortimer, physicist, pioneer of nuclear fusion, Cambridge, 1968.

The New York Subway was opened by Mayor McClellan, 1904. The deregulation of the money market brought about the Big Bang in the City, 1986.

BMDs: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS
Hudson - John Harold, Solicitor, of Kensington, died peacefully on 24 October. Much loved husband of Angela, and father of Thomas, Anna, and Sarah. Buried at Kensal Green, London. Family Friday 31st October.

LATHAM - Lady Geraldine Lucy Constance Rutherford, died peacefully on 24 October. Much loved mother of her children and all the family. Buried at Kensal Green, London. Family Friday 31st October.

MAGILL - On October 23rd 1997 to Joseph (Joe) Magill, 72, of 10, The Grange, Clonsilla, Co. Wick. Buried at Clonsilla, Co. Wick. Family Friday 31st October.

WRIGHT - On October 23rd 1997 to Sally (née Beard), 64, of 10, The Grange, Clonsilla, Co. Wick. Buried at Clonsilla, Co. Wick. Family Friday 31st October.

CHAMBER - Charlotte Helen (née) died peacefully on 24 October. Much loved mother of her children and all the family. Buried at Kensal Green, London. Family Friday 31st October.

COMPTON - Elizabeth Ann (née) died peacefully on 24 October. Much loved mother of her children and all the family. Buried at Kensal Green, London. Family Friday 31st October.

REID - (Andrew) John, 62, of 10, The Grange, Clonsilla, Co. Wick, died peacefully on 24 October. Much loved father of his children and all the family. Buried at Clonsilla, Co. Wick. Family Friday 31st October.

WILSON - Dickie (Aileen) died peacefully on 24 October. Much loved mother of her children and all the family. Buried at Kensal Green, London. Family Friday 31st October.

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OBITUARIES

CAPTAIN ROGER HICKS

Captain Roger Hicks, DSO, wartime destroyer commander, died on October 12 aged 87. He was born on December 27, 1909.

In May 1940, in the desperate last hours before the Germans captured Boulogne, Roger Hicks, as captain of the destroyer *Vimiera*, played a prominent role in evacuating several thousand men of the 20th Guards Brigade from the port. Of the group of destroyers sent in to try to rescue the Guards, *Vimiera* was the only one to return twice to Boulogne, which she did in the evening of May 23, 1940, and again in the small hours of May 24. In doing so she took off 2,400 men of the Welsh and Irish Guards, who were brought back to Britain to fight another day.

There was something appropriate about *Vimiera's* being employed in this hazardous work. She was one of the destroyers which had escorted two battalions of the brigade across to France in the first place. On May 21 *Vimiera*, under Hicks's command, and the destroyer *Whitshed*, had seen the 2nd Irish Guards and the 2nd Welsh Guards and their supporting anti-tank batteries safely ashore at Boulogne, whose defence was considered vital as a supply port for the British Expeditionary Force in the aftermath of the German breakthrough the month of the Somme at Arras, the previous day.

It was already too late. Guderian's panzer had by now an irresistible momentum. Although the German Corps was in a position to hold it in and around Boulogne, the enemy is fighting for every inch of ground in order to prevent the port falling into German hands. The Guards really had their backs to the wall from the moment of embarkation. In spite of this, both the Welsh and Irish battalions repulsed several tank attacks.

But at daybreak on May 23, the

Germans captured Fort de la Crèche, on the heights to the north of Boulogne, from its French defenders. From that moment their artillery, mortars and machine-guns were able to fire at will into the town and harbour. In addition, air attacks pounded British shipping in the roads.

Against this unpromising backdrop the Royal Navy was ordered in to try to bring the Guards off. In addition to *Vimiera* and *Whitshed*, four other British destroyers and several French ships drew in towards the shore and shelled German artillery positions and machinegun nests. But a heavy toll was exacted by German guns and bombers. The captains of both *Keith* and *Vimy* were killed on their bridges and the French destroyer *Orage* was sunk.

It was obvious that an evacuation must be attempted immediately and Admiral Ramsay, as Flag Officer, Dover, ordered the captain of *Whitshed* to enter the harbour. By this time the enemy were swarming into the town and as the destroyers went alongside they were engaging German tanks over open sights. Amid a ferocious exchange of fire, each destroyer embarked 1,000 guardsmen and carried them to safety. As they withdrew, the other destroyers came alongside and although all sustained some damage, hundreds more troops were brought off.

Darkness fell, and that appeared to be all that could be achieved. But Ramsay, at Dover, was aware that a substantial body of troops was still onshore. Although by this time the Germans were masters of the scene, he reluctantly gave the order that Hicks should return and attempt to rescue them. At 1.40am on May 24, *Vimiera* steamed into a harbour which had, after the tumult of the previous day, fallen strangely silent. In a feverish hour, during which her officers and men fervently hoped that there would not be a repetition of the German assaults, 1,400 more guardsmen were surreptitiously re-embarked

and Hicks thankfully gave the order to slip and proceed to sea.

Vimiera was by this time dangerously overloaded and in addition was dive-bombed as she sailed away from the French coast. But thanks to skilful ship handling she reached Dover safely. For his part in this audacious rescue from under the noses of the enemy of so many valuable fighting troops, Hicks was awarded a well-earned DSO.

Roger Bertram Nettleton Hicks was born at St Columb, Cornwall, the son of an army officer. His father died in 1915 from wounds suffered on the Western Front. Hicks was educated at Winchester, where he was a War Scholar, joining the Royal Navy in 1927.

Thereafter, he served in the heavy cruiser *Devonshire* on the China station and in the light cruiser *Danae* in the West Indies. During the pre-war crises of the Italian invasion of Abyssinia and the Spanish Civil War he was, first, standing by at Alexandria in the destroyer *Firebrake* and later patrolling in the Mediterranean.

In 1940 he took command of *HMS Vimiera*, in whose name hangs a small tale. The name first occurs in the Royal Navy in 1808, the year of the Peninsular War Battle of Vimiera, after which a ship was (incorrectly) christened. The mistake was perpetuated in her successor, Hicks's command. (Another curious such case is *HMS Curacao* of which no fewer than four have been thus incorrectly named after the Netherlands Antilles island of Curacao, since 1809.)

Hicks next commanded the destroyer *Antelope*, which was sent to search for survivors after the sinking of the battleship *Hood* by the *Bismarck*. He also helped to evacuate Norwegian and Russian coalminers from Spitzbergen.

In the autumn of 1941, Hicks was appointed to the staff of C-in-C, East Indies, who had specifically requested a young destroyer officer with command experience. Unfortunately, the tide of Japanese victories in the Far East and the

increasing importance of the Royal Navy's war against the U-boats in the Atlantic meant that Hicks was stranded in a comparative backwater at a vital stage of his career. He found himself in Colombo, latterly on the staff of Flag Officer Ceylon, until 1944.

Returning to England, Hicks commanded the destroyer *Zest* on Murmansk convoys and helped to evacuate Norwegian civilians from the Island of Sørøya, then threatened by retreating German troops. For this, he was appointed an honorary Knight First Class of the Norwegian Order of St Olav.

On VE-Day *Zest* was at Copenhagen for a jubilant welcome, and at the end of the war in the Far East Hicks was in Singapore, in charge of working parties of surrendered Japanese naval personnel.

After further sea and staff appointments, in 1956 he took command of the aircraft carrier *Warrior*, which was to have taken the nuclear bombs to Christmas Island for the Pacific tests. In the event, the bombs were flown out, but *Warrior* acted as the general mother ship to the various naval units taking part on arrival at Christmas Island in March 1957. Hicks was appointed Commodore of the Operation Gapple naval task group, as its petative commander had fallen ill in Britain.

Three tests were carried out over Malden Island, and on completion of the third, Hicks flew down to New Zealand, to thank the authorities for the loan of two frigates which had taken part in the operation. His last appointment was as Chief of Staff to the Commander-in-Chief, the North Atlantic.

In 1964 Hicks returned to his native Cornwall, serving as a Bodmin JP and being active in a wide range of local affairs. Hicks's first wife, Iris, died in 1941. He married, secondly, in 1946, Joan Say, and is survived by her, their daughter and son, and by the daughter and son of his first marriage.



RICHARD MASON

Richard Mason, novelist, died in Rome on October 13 aged 78. He was born on May 16, 1919.

ALREADY a well-known novelist in the 1940s, Richard Mason suddenly achieved notoriety in 1957 with *The World of Suzie Wong*, his famous story about a Hong Kong prostitute, who falls in love with an artist for whom she poses. The novel, one of the runaway bestsellers of the 1950s, was followed by a play which had long runs on Broadway and in the West

End. In 1960 it was made into a film starring Nancy Kwan and William Holden. All over the world, whether rightly or wrongly, the idea of Suzie Wong came to represent Hong Kong and the forbidden romance of its nightlife.

Mason's first two books, *The Body Fell on Berlin* and *Angel Take Care*, were published when he was in his late teens (under the pseudonym Richard Lakin). These were followed by his first great success, *The Wind Cannot Read*, published in 1947 and made into a film directed by

David Lean and starring Dirk Bogarde, for which Mason wrote the script. Like many of his novels, this story of a British pilot falling in love with his Japanese language instructor was based on Mason's own experiences during the war.

Then in 1949 followed *The Shadow and the Peak* and, after *The World of Suzie Wong* in 1962, *The Fever Tree*. Mason also scripted various films including (as co-writer) *A Town Like Alice* (1956, another war story set in the Far East) from the novel by Neville Shute.

Richard Mason was born in Hale, Manchester, in 1919, the son of an engineer. He was educated at Bryanston where W. H. Auden, his English teacher, had an inspirational effect on his future career.

In 1939 he joined the Royal Air Force where he learnt Japanese. He was later sent to the Irrawaddy river zone of Burma, was issued with a Jeep, a tent and a Gurkha orderly so that he could seek out and interrogate Japanese pilots who had been brought down in the jungle. His years in Asia had a decisive influence on Mason's later career and, despite his military chores, he managed to find time to continue writing on his portable typewriter.

Mason's first wife, whom he married in 1948, was Felicity Anne Cumming. She and Mason toured Africa extensively in the 1950s, looking for animals to photograph. The two remained close friends even after they separated and divorced.

In 1958 Mason bought and restored a charming top-floor apartment in the heart of Rome. Then in 1960 he married his second wife, Sarette, and the couple moved to an estate in Wales where Mason bred sheep and discovered his talent for sculpture. After this marriage failed, Mason returned to Rome, remaining on the best of terms with his second ex-wife.

In 1972 Mason fell in love with and married Margot (Maggie) Wolf, who was 24 years his junior. Their first child, a son, was born in 1973. Mason was so excited at becoming a father at the age of 54 that he spent the first night sleeping under his wife's hospital bed. A daughter was born in 1977.

He gradually gave up his writing and lived contentedly on his royalties. He had a young wife and a young family, and he devoted himself to them.

With Maggie he hosted memorable parties for his friends, as well as extremely colourful children's parties. His 70th birthday party, which brought friends from as far away as Hollywood, Thailand and Australia, and Maggie's 50th birthday for which she cooked entirely on her own in a closet-sized kitchen, were supreme gastronomic feats. A popular guest at any gathering, Mason was known in Rome circles as *un fior di galantuomo* — the perfect gentleman.

His wife and two children survive him.

PROFESSOR A. H. W. BECK

A. H. W. Beck, Professor of Engineering at Cambridge, 1966-93, died on October 11 aged 81. He was born on August 7, 1916.

BILL BECK, as he was known, made important contributions to the physics and engineering of thermionic valves for use in radar, and later for use with fusion.

Arnold Hugh William Beck was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, and University College London. After graduation he became a research engineer at Henry Hughes & Sons, remaining there until 1941. Before the war he had been an active member of the Communist Party, but being a fierce patriot he soon relinquished his membership. He was also a member of the Association of Scientific Workers.

In 1941 he was seconded to the Admiralty Signals Establishment to assist with the development of microwave valves for radar, and shortly after the end of the war he went to the Standard Telecommunications Laboratories to take charge of all research on valves. Wanting to share his work with a wide audience, he published three introductory books, and he was soon recognised on both sides of the Atlantic.

In 1958 Beck became a lecturer in the engineering department at Cambridge, where his "Boy's Own Bumper Fun Books", as colleagues referred to them, were essential reading for research students. His move to Cambridge came at a time when teaching and research in electronics were growing apace, and his industrial experience was of great value in helping him to play a full role in both. He immediately started a strong research group on various topics within electron physics. He became a Fellow of Corpus Christi College in 1962 and

was elected to a personal readership in 1964 and to a chair in 1966.

He wrote many learned papers (mostly with his research students), and continued to write textbooks, of which *Physical Electronics* (with Haroon Ahmed) was perhaps the best known.

In the early 1960s he devised and published the basic principles of a new kind of microwave generator, which used spiralling electron beams in a smooth electromagnetic waveguide. A low-power model of the valve was constructed and tested successfully, but because there was no immediate commercial use for it the work was not funded and was discontinued. A version was later developed in Russia as the gyatron, which is now widely

used where exceptionally high microwave power is required. Beck's early work, however, did not receive the credit it deserved.

Beck had a forceful personality, expected others to work as hard as he did himself, and did not suffer fools gladly. But in those who made the grade he inspired great loyalty and affection, and he went to great trouble to further their interests. Many of his research students returned to celebrate his 80th birthday with a dinner in Cambridge last year.

His first marriage, to Margaret Stewart MacIver, was dissolved in 1938. In 1947 he married Monica, daughter of S. K. Ratcliffe, and he is survived by her and by her two sons.



Unlikely encounter: Suzie Wong (Nancy Kwan, centre) in a catfight with a fellow Hong Kong prostitute while an apprehensive William Holden steps in to break it up, in a scene from the film of Mason's book.

University news

Oxford
TRINITY COLLEGE
John Fairweather Wright, Tutor in Economics 1955-60, Official Fellow 1965-69, Elected Reader 1969-97, has been elected to an Emeritus Fellowship from October 1.
The following scholarships and prizes have been awarded to members of the college:
Millard Scholarship in Chemistry: Rosemary Allen.
Millard Scholarship in Engineering Science: William Bennett.
Millard Scholarships in Materials Science: Suzanne Picher, Philippa Cave, Matthew Shan.
Millard Scholarship in Physics: Anthony Woodfield.
Hillier Scholarship in English: Lucy Quince.
Wyatt Scholarship in History: John Wiggall.
Wyatt Scholarship in Law: Michael Tanslyn.
Chadwick Scholarship in PPE:

Shailen Patel.
Woodruff Scholarships in Philosophy and Theology: Kate Dyson, Benjamin West.
Perceval Exhibitions in English: Nicholas Dempsey, Daniel Thomas Swift.
Ford Exhibitions in History: Claire Booth, Catherine Boulton, Tryphena Doyle, Akady Hodge.
Blackston Exhibitions in Literature: Humaniores: Melanie Peart, Diana Spain.
Henniker Exhibitions in Mathematics: Claire Eggleston, Damon Vosper Singleton.
Millard Exhibitions in Materials Science: Russell Goodall, Helen Lane, Susannah Wood.
Millard Exhibitions in Engineering: Sing Yong Kong, Christine Luk, Rachel Oliver.
Chadwick Exhibitions in Modern Languages: Katherine Earnshaw, Andrew Hutchinson, James Malloy, Elizabeth Turner.

Woodruff Exhibition in Theology: Richard Ashcroft.
Millard Exhibitions in Physics: Christopher Golby, Stephen Morris.
Graduate Scholarships: Bruce Booth, Catherine Lever, Grant Ritchie, Michael Watkins, Melvyn Yap.
R A Knox Memorial Prize for the best first-class performance in a Final Honour School: jointly to Yefei Aston, Antonia Machacek, Stephen Payne, David Towsey.
Peter Fisher Prize in Physics: Antonia Machacek.
Bellot Prize in International Law: Elan Segal.
Douglas Sladen Essay Prize: Kim-Bi Nqali.
Coxes Hardy Moot Prize: jointly to Sophie Harth Kassim, Nicolas Gray.
James Holliday Prize in Ancient History: jointly to Melanie Peart, Diana Spain.

Stirling Boyd Prize for the student whose achievement and influence on the life of the college are of the highest value: jointly to Antonia Machacek, Stephen Payne.
Prizes for Firsts in Final Honour Schools:
Helen Aston, Emma Brown, Susanna Cary, Thomas Elyria, Daniel Gilson, Ben Gilbert, Paul Gilbert, Gareth James, Alain Lam, Antonia Machacek, Stephen Payne, Richard Thompson, David Towsey.
Graduate Prizes:
Jasoud Ahmed, Nabil Ben Kheder, Rebecca Boggs, Jason Elatshou, Catherine Emerson, Nir Haral, Christopher Irooke, Walter Joss, Gerard Kahn, Jennifer Lead, Charles Lawrie, Yungwoo Lee, Alison Loftus-Hills, Jonathan Mongolopoulos, Jeremy Smith, Vicki Ann Wrigley.
Undergraduate Prizes for work of special merit:
Charlotte Curtis, Daryl Moyce, Christina Luk.

THE TRUTH WELL HIDDEN
MR W.C. FIELDS SPEAKS TO CONQUER

Every connoisseur of film comedy must treasure the memory of certain moments in the cinema, moments which he can look back on with joy. Hopefully trapped in the middle of a long row of amply filled seats, while some desperate drama of heroic passion unfolds itself, he may yet close his eyes and abandon himself to such memories, thinking longingly of Mr. Chaplin being forcibly fed on nuts — and bolts of a band concert and an outrageous duck selling forsworn of the Marx Brothers playing bridge; or of Mr. Charles Laughton, with one magnificent gesture, acknowledging the gift of a million dollars.

To these must be added just the sound of Mr. W.C. Fields's voice. There is something about that slow, sugary eloquence which is satisfying and rare, an old-world courtliness and dignity belonging to an age in which even the snarling lack some pride in his profession, as though to say, "I may be a liar, but at least I'm a gentleman."

ON THIS DAY
October 27, 1937

W.C. Fields was Florence Ziegfeld's star attraction from 1915 to 1921, and his measured, rather pompous delivery did not initially go down well in the "talkies" — but his time was to come.

persuasive voice, the grandiose and flowery speech, are unique in the cinema. He is an old-time showman still mentally holding his own in a world of wise-cracking salesmanship. He does not move with the times, but how magnificently he triumphs! It is almost with a sense of reverence that we watch him selling a publican his neighbour's dog or a yodel a bottle of special tonic, good for man or beast.

Mr. Fields can, we may readily believe, sell anything to anybody, convincing each client that what he offers is just the thing which that client cannot possibly do without. The most accomplished liar and braggart on the screen.

he can yet at times assume an innocence of expression which would do credit to a newly born babe; and when playing poker with those who believe that they have a "sucker" in their midst, he will turn up ace after ace with a slight start of pained surprise as though protesting to the gods that they should, thus favour one so guileless. Quick to grasp an opportunity, he is also quick to sense when trouble is brewing, and like all great showmen he knows to a nicety the moment when the prudent man stops talking and makes hurriedly for open country.

Once probably the greatest comic juggler of his day on the stage, Mr Fields did not for a long time achieve any great fame upon the screen. He has appeared intermittently in celluloid for more than 20 years, but his universal success is recent. In the days of silent films, producers saw in him only a slapstick comedian of moderate ability. With the coming of sound he did not at first fare much better than before.

Such stately verbosity was not appreciated in Hollywood, a city of twentieth-century showmen who looked askance at one from another era. But in the last few years he has come into his own and gained the recognition he deserves, although illness has unfortunately made his appearances all too rare.

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

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Dwyer's gamble pays off
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Watching football's
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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY OCTOBER 27 1997

CRASH COURSE BACKFIRES ON FORMER CHAMPION

Villeneuve rises above chicanery of Schumacher



**Michael Calvin sees
the coronation of
Formula One's new
king amid blazing
controversy in Jerez**

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER lost more than a world drivers' championship in Jerez yesterday afternoon. He sacrificed his reputation in an act of such insubordinate cynicism that he forfeited the right to sympathy. Those who came to console him stayed to condemn a fundamental flaw in his character.

Schumacher offered no apologies for his blatant attempt to target the Williams-Renault of Jacques Villeneuve into a gravel trap, even if the stewards allegedly abandoned their responsibilities by maintaining the fiction that the collision, on lap 48 of the European Grand Prix, was no more than a "racing incident".

The global television audience of 350 million people will prefer to believe the evidence of their own eyes. As Villeneuve said, after clinching the championship by finishing third behind Mika Hakkinen: "Michael tried to take me off - but he didn't do it well enough."

Villeneuve was in philosophical mood. He was resigned to Schumacher's warped morality and placated by the natural justice of the German's aggression, which led directly to the loss of his chance of a third world title. Others, led by Damon Hill and his former employer, Frank Williams, were more inclined to apportion blame.

Hill gleamed a perverse, but entirely understandable, sense of satisfaction from Schumacher's disappointment. The incident had too many echoes of his misfortune in 1994, when he lost the title in an all-too-convenient accident with the German on the streets of Adelaide.

"Michael showed his true colours and got what he deserved," Hill said. "I said beforehand that I didn't think he would do anything like taking Jacques off, because it would destroy his reputation."

But what he has done is underlined in people's minds just what his antics and tactics are. At least he is consistent.

Williams, whose team also won the constructors' championship for the ninth time, was similarly trenchant in his comments. "It was Adelaide revisited," he said. "Then it was Damon. This time it was Jacques."

The flashpoint came at the Dry Sac curve, where cars decelerate from 185mph in seventh gear, to 50mph. Villeneuve attempted to cut down the inside and surprised Schumacher with his audacity in braking so late. Schumacher, seeing Villeneuve alongside him, deliberately turned into him. His front-right tyre hit the Williams-Renault, leaving slashes of exposed metal along the side of the cockpit. The Ferrari careered off the track, in a cloud of tyre smoke, and came to rest in a gravel trap.

Schumacher was less than two feet away from the circuit, but could only impotently spin his back wheels. He urged a marshal to push him out of trouble, but eventually accepted the inevitable. He slowly detached his steering wheel, hitched a lift to the pits on the back of a scooter, and stalked silently into the Ferrari motorhome.

He emerged only to face the stewards, who cravenly accepted the illusion of innocence. "I do not feel I made a mistake," Schumacher insisted, to widespread scorn. Significantly enough, Bernie Ecclestone, the pivotal influence in Formula One, said: "I didn't expect Schumacher to do something like that. I'm disappointed in the way it ended."

Villeneuve's first instinct was to use sardonic humour to defuse the situation. "Either Michael had his eyes closed or his hands slid on the steering wheel," he said, before quickly



A dejected Schumacher walks around the Ferrari pit

recognising the uncomfortable realities of the afternoon. "I was not really surprised when Michael turned into me," he said. "I knew I was taking a big risk and I thought he had broken my car. It jumped in the air when he

bringed wheels and it just didn't feel stable for the rest of the race. I was surprised I could finish the race but luckily, he went off."

"He had only himself to blame. It was not a small thing, a miscalculation. I just



Villeneuve celebrates his third place yesterday, which was enough to give him his first world drivers' championship

WORLD DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL STANDINGS

1. J Villeneuve (Ren)	81	11. J Herbert (GB)	15
2. M Schumacher (Ger)	78	12. E Schumacher (Ger)	13
3. M Hakkinen (Fin)	42	13. D Hill (GB)	7
4. J Alesi (Fr)	36	14. R Barrichello (Br)	6
5. D Coulthard (GB)	36	15. J Trulli (It)	4
6. M Hakkinen (Fin)	27	16. J Trulli (It)	3
7. G Berger (Austria)	27	17. M Salo (Fin)	2
8. E Irvine (GB)	24	18. S Nakano (Japan)	2
9. G Fisichella (It)	20	19. P Dink (Sw)	2
10. O Farin (Fr)	18	20. N Larini (It)	1

WORLD CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL STANDINGS

1. Williams Renault	123	2. Prost-Mugen Honda	21
3. Ferrari	102	3. Sauber-Peterson	16
4. Benetton-Renault	67	4. Arrows-Yamaha	9
5. McLaren-Mercedes	63	5. Stewart-Ford	6
6. Jordan-Peugeot	33	6. Tyrrell-Ford	2

think I surprised him. I was way behind him when he looked in his mirrors, but I braked later than we both thought possible. Suddenly, I was beside him. I caught him out, basically."

Third place, behind the McLaren-Mercedes pair of Hakkinen and David Coulthard, was sufficient to give Villeneuve the championship. A cannon, fired from the roof of a motorhome, signalled the start of a long night's celebration. "Jacques did a world champion's job today," Wil-

liams said. "I was more nervous than ever before, and he coped tremendously well." Coulthard said: "Jacques deserves the title," but Hill, the retiring champion, deserved the final word. "I'm so pleased for him," he said. "He is a nice man and what Michael did was unnecessary."

Few, even in the funeral parlour of the Ferrari garage, were inclined to disagree.

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Fitting reward, page 27
TV Action Replay, page 32

"Seeing those two
wings reminds me,
pass the Hen."

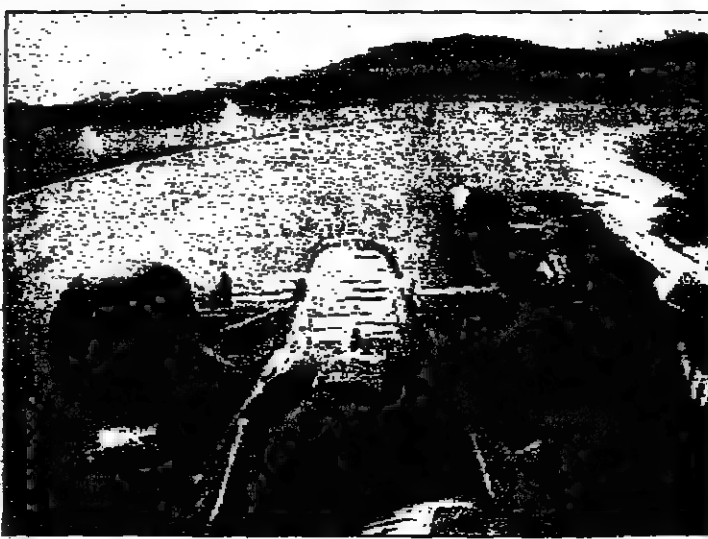


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Villeneuve brakes late and takes the inside line, left, but Schumacher refuses to give way, eventually resorting to driving into his rival, right, at Dry Sac curve on the 47th lap

TENNIS: CZECH'S VICTORY SHOWS BENEFIT OF FINALLY SUBMITTING TO LONG-DELAYED OPERATION

Korda cuts Krajicek down to size

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN STUTTGART

THIS is not a sport on which to dwell occasionally. Such an approach would promise to flatter that Petr Korda was ranked outside the world's top ten, that thousands do not queue to watch him perform and that Korda, by humbling Richard Krajicek in the Eurocard Open final, was winning his first tournament in 21 months.

These details seem positively absurd in the light of Korda's performance this week. He outclassed Patrick Rafter, the world No 3, in the semi-finals on Saturday before playing Delilah to Krajicek's Samson in front of a spell-bound audience here yesterday. So effectively did he neutralise Krajicek's strength that the Dutchman was beaten long before he eventually succumbed after 93 compelling minutes. "I didn't even have a break point," Krajicek said ruefully. "I didn't even have a chance to get a break point."

Korda, 29, is an enigma in every sense. The purest striker of a ball on the ATP Tour, he moves remarkably poorly. This is the man who dismissed Pete Sampras, the world No 1, in the US Open — only to retire from his next match with a "head cold". If his natural talent should have already seen him stamp an indelible imprint on the game, separate operations to both sides of his groin may have afforded him a second chance.

It was Tony Pickard, the coach to Greg Rusedski, who bullied Korda, from the Czech Republic, into submitting to

the scalpel. An in-built fear of surgery saw Korda play through 18 months of pain before finally relenting two years ago. "People didn't believe I was injured, but deep inside I always knew how to play tennis," Korda said yesterday. "Tony will be a friend for life; he has done so much for me. Before he left this week, he told me to win the tournament. I owe him a good dinner after this."

Whatever the precise cause of his rehabilitation, Korda's return to the top ten after a lapse of four years is particularly welcome. The opening set saw this final threaten to descend to the realms of a hollow shoot-out until Korda snared a precious advantage. Krajicek had dropped just two points in his six preceding service games, but two more in the tie-break opened wounds too severe to stem.

That loss demoralised the Dutchman as much as it inspired Korda, who opened the second set with a blistering sequence of clean passes against Krajicek's mighty service. The tide was irreversible, with winners flowing in abundance from Korda's racket. The disguise and accuracy of his passing shots made Krajicek appear as though cast in stone. "He can hit a winner from any position," the Dutchman said.

Korda's victory, by 7-6, 6-2, 6-4, also went some way towards consoling Rusedski, whose second-round exit rendered him vulnerable in the race towards Hanover and the ATP Tour world champion-



Korda demonstrates perfect poise in negating the raw power of Krajicek yesterday. Photograph: Thomas Keimle

ship. Victory for Krajicek would have hoisted him on to Rusedski's heels; instead, he lies in twelfth place, four below the cut-off point for qualification.

Rusedski remains in fourth place. A prominent showing in Paris this week — where Tim Henman plays Hicham Arazi in the opening round today — will effectively secure the Briton's passage. The Paris event may have been weakened by a spate of withdrawals, but Korda will be there, waiting to ambush Sampras, his favourite prey, in the third round. On this evidence, Sampras will not relish their meeting one bit.

Britain continue upward trend

ANOTHER year, another victory. On Saturday morning, Louise Latimer secured Great Britain's fifth consecutive victory in the Maureen Connolly Trophy when her 5-7, 6-3, 6-0 win over Jackie Trail gave the home side an unassailable 6-3 lead over the United States.

In the overall scheme of things, this annual under-21s contest counts for little, save for the experience gained by the young hopefuls in representing their countries. There is no money to be won, there are no ranking points to be gained, but there is pressure

— hell hath no fury like a team-mate let down.

Although the Americans fielded a team of college players while Britain relied on the best available talent, the matches still had to be won and Britain's greatest opponent proved to be nerves. Latimer took time to settle on Saturday, but once she had, she made it look simple and demolished Trail.

The result gave Keith Woolridge, manager of women's national training,

hope that, at last, things are on the right track. The improvements may not be on the scale of Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman's achievements, but the movement is in the right direction. The average ranking for the top six women in the country is around the No 150 mark — 12 months ago, it was No 350.

"We picked this side to try and improve the players for the future," Woolridge said. "It gives the girls a bit of self-confidence. We can use this as a building block in their development."

SNOOKER

Rank outsider makes his mark

By PHIL VATES

DOMINIC DALE, who, at various low points of an undistinguished snooker career, has contemplated finding alternative employment, gave himself every chance of becoming the Grand Prix champion by establishing a 5-3 lead over John Higgins in the first session of the final at Bournemouth yesterday.

Dale, the world No 54, was left needing only four of the remaining nine frames to be the lowest-ranked player to win a leading event since Ronnie O'Sullivan captured titles at the 1993 United Kingdom championship and 1994 British Open when ranked No 57.

Ignoring those who dismissed him as nothing more than cannon-fodder for Higgins, Dale, quoted as a 100-1 pre-tournament outsider by the bookmakers, had the opportunity to take an even stronger grip on the match when he moved 5-1 ahead.

Finding vital balls and enjoying good fortune at timely moments — particularly when clearing to the pink in the second frame after escaping a snooker to pot the last red — Dale put Higgins under immediate pressure.

This showed itself in an unusually high number of unforced errors from the normally reliable Scot, who could well have found himself 6-0 adrift had it not been for the excellent 61 clearance with which he stole the fifth on the black.

Even so, a 5-1 deficit was bad enough for Higgins. He responded by winning the closing two frames of the afternoon with breaks of 71 and 98 to move back into contention.

Higgins was encouraged by his finish and knows that his opponent still had some psychological bridges to cross



Higgins: unforced errors

before collecting the £50,000 first prize.

Jimmy White, no stranger to the disappointment of ending a competition on which he had pinned high hopes with an unexpected defeat, was afflicted by an unfathomable inability to pot key balls when he lost 6-2, to Dale in the semi-finals on Saturday night.

Over the course of the opening four frames, White aggregated only 50 points less than Dale and was responsible for three of the four highest breaks, yet still entered the mid-session interval 4-0 down.

Dale, commendably cool despite the alien environment of such an important occasion, claimed one frame on the brown, two others on the pink and one on the black. "Jimmy is everyone's hero," Dale said. "Everyone thought he would win and he was under an awful lot of pressure."

White said: "I am frustrated because I just didn't compete." At least he will draw consolation from arresting an alarming slide down the Embassy world rankings, which saw him start the season at No 31 on the provisional list.

DALE: 5-3 Higgins (Dale last: 15-0, 57-44, 69-58, 78-17, 69-70, 81-31, 1-77, 0-82)

ATHLETICS

Radcliffe casts aside her woes

TWO weeks ago, Paula Radcliffe learnt that the British Athletic Federation could not pay the £15,000 it owes her (David Powell writes). Last week, one of her big ambitions, to set a 5,000 metres world record, was effectively moved beyond her reach by the Chinese. Nothing for it then but to cast cares aside and run in the AAA of England national women's road relays.

A sunny autumnal day at Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield, was ideal for that yesterday. This year, Radcliffe has won the New York mile, broken the British 5,000 metres record, won a world cross country silver medal and placed fourth in the 5,000 metres at the world championships. Yet she said: "This gives me as much pleasure, more even. There is nothing wrong with the sport here. It is healthy, judging by the atmosphere and number of teams. At least you know that 100 per cent of the people here are competing fairly and that is not something that, hand on heart, I could say for a lot of races."

This, though, was not a day to dwell on gloom but to celebrate. Radcliffe's club, Bedford and County, won the senior title for the first time. Radcliffe ran the fastest time of the day, 13min 55sec for 4,300 metres. Next stops are Barbados and Honolulu, where she will seek to make the money she needs for winter training, now that the BAF is in administration and she is out of pocket.

BASKETBALL

Royals seek American aid

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE arrival of two new Americans cannot come soon enough for Watford Royals. Stranded at the foot of the Budweiser League, where they finished in each of the past two seasons, the Hertfordshire club is without a win after 11 games of the present campaign and straining more than ever the league's leniency in allowing them to retain their status.

Once a work permit is processed for Phil Powe, a 6ft 8in forward from East Tennessee, and the signing is completed by Clive Lewis, a three-time championship winner with Worthing Bears, the Royals' owner, Vince Macaulay-Razaq, trusts that his club will be able to compete against the best.

"It is quite clear they will make a difference," he said

after a 95-82 defeat at Leicester Riders on Saturday. Assuming that Lewis signs, he will be able to help with the coaching, which is presently the responsibility of Macaulay-Razaq himself, since, for the second season running, he has dispensed with his appointed coach after a mere handful of fixtures.

Surprisingly for a squad so down on its luck, the Royals' players are anything but resigned. Their spirit was personified by Ray Schultz, their top scorer on Saturday with 22 points, who, in three seasons with the club, has known nothing but strife. "If I didn't care, it wouldn't bother me so much," the Philadelphia said, "but I take each loss so much to heart."

Schultz inspired a third-quarter revival when the Royals briefly looked like a team capable of breaking their duck. Adrift by 45-29 at the interval, they then employed a press, drawing level at 60-60 with a three-pointer from Jimmy Ratcliff. The effort took its toll, however, and they succumbed wearily to yet another loss.

The Riders, who had ended their run of four successive defeats two days earlier in a 136-134 win over Derby Storm in triple-overtime, were led by Billy Singleton's 28 points. The Watford game was played amid rather less acrimony than the one on Thursday, when the referee, Mick Howell, was accidentally struck by Brian Balser, the Derby player, while trying to break up a locker-room fracas.

GOLF

Nicholas celebrates outstanding double

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN DEAUVILLE

ALISON NICHOLAS, of Great Britain, added the European No 1 ranking to her women's US Open crown when she finished second, two strokes behind Lorraine Lambert, of Australia, in the Air France Madame Open at the new Golf de Deauville course yesterday.

Nicholas needed to finish in the first two here to achieve her ambition, but, with three holes to play, she was five over par and six strokes behind Valerie Michaud, of France, with Lambert in the clubhouse on level-par 213 after a final round of 69. "I was struggling on the greens and told myself to give it a go over the last

three holes," Nicholas, who captured a marvellous three birdies in the closing holes, said afterwards.

Michaud dropped shots at the 16th and 17th and took a double-bogey six at the last to finish joint-third, with Shani Weigh, of Australia, one shot behind Nicholas.

Nicholas is scheduled to fly to Japan today for two tournaments, but will return to play for the European Tour, side that will face the Seniors in the inaugural Fala d'El Rey European Cup match in Portugal on November 14-16. Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, of France, will captain the Tour side in a playing role.

HOCKEY: CANNOCK ONLY UNBEATEN PREMIER TEAM AS THE WEST WITNESSES A RESURRECTION

Bhatti exerts revenge Taunton surge ahead

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

AFTER Southgate's 3-1 loss at home to East Grinstead yesterday, Cannock are on top of the table and the only unbeaten side in the National League premier division. East Grinstead's stronger running, inspired by Bhatti, gave them a hard-earned victory and revenge for the earlier 3-2 defeat by Southgate.

All the scoring was done in the second half. Bhatti put East Grinstead ahead from a short corner in the 58th minute. Anala equalised from a penalty stroke a minute later. Late goals by Speed and Barnes, from a penalty

stroke, sealed victory for East Grinstead, who had beaten Teddington 2-1 on Saturday.

Cannock followed their 4-1 victory against Barford Tigers on Saturday with a 4-0 home win against Beeston yesterday. Canterbury, who had earlier beaten the title-holders, Reading, 4-0, defeated them again, 4-3, yesterday. Hounslow, having lost 3-1 to Southgate on Saturday, dropped to sixth after losing 4-2 to Teddington yesterday.

Surbiton and Havant share the leadership of the first division with full points from four matches.

TAUNTON Vale had a tough time avoiding relegation last season, but after a remarkable resurgence this year, they are level with Robinsons, the champions, at the head of the West of England and South Wales League.

The Somerset side's 6-1 victory over Bristol University and Robinsons' 5-2 triumph over Whitechurch leaves nothing separating the two teams. Two goals by Alex Robins and further strikes from Iain King, Dave Phillips and Ryan Dudley secured the holders to their win, with the midfield players, Adrian Cheek and James Webber, netting two apiece

for Taunton. Matthew Berry and Paul Langford also scored.

Harborne, the leaders, nearly paid the price for a sloppy second half performance against Hampton but held on to win 5-3 and extend their 100 per cent record, giving them a three-point lead in the DTZ Midlands League premier division. Ravi Bhatti scored a penalty corner and converted a stroke. Andy Litchfield scored two and Alex Bale completed the scoreline.

Peterborough held on to top spot in the Adnams East League with a 3-1 victory over Bishop's Stortford.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Nicol puts career before Scotland

■ SQUASH: Peter Nicol, the world No 3, whose victories over Jansher Khan this season have made him the favourite for the World Open championship in Kuala Lumpur next month, has refused to play for Scotland in the subsequent world team championship (Colin McQuillan writes). England are expected to defend the team title in strength.

Scotland had high hopes, with Jansher also electing not to enter the team event to avoid a child maintenance suit in Malaysia. Nicol, 24, has told Scottish Squash that his individual career is too delicately balanced during this period to expend valuable energy in pursuit of a team title.

McGinley rules in Madrid

■ GOLF: Paul McGinley, from Ireland, took the £75,000 first prize for winning the Oki Pro-Am in Madrid yesterday. McGinley, 38, shot a final round of 69 to finish 22 under par on 264, beating Iain Pymon, from Leeds, by four shots and Greg Turner, of New Zealand, by seven. Pymon's 64 yesterday earned him £50,000 and his Tour card for next year. ■ Joanne Morley, the Solheim Cup player from Sale, and Diane Barnard, from Weybridge, won full players' cards at the US LPGA final qualifying school tournament at Daytona Beach, Florida.

Watson does London proud

■ BOWLING: Ian Watson, of London, the lightweight international, won the Marlow Sculls on Saturday with a six-second margin over Guy Pooley, of Leander, London. Produced a hat-trick of men's wins and the Marlow women did the same. One of the Marlow successes came for Kath Bishop, whose last-minute illness at the world championships in September probably cost her, and Great Britain, a medal.

Penalty winner cashes in

■ FOOTBALL: The biggest sum of money guaranteed to a fan in a football promotion — £107,000 — was won yesterday by the only competitor in a penalty shootout who dominated somebody else to take his kicks. Five winners of a slogan competition took part and John Flynn, 42, representing Flabour Long, 45, from Cork, won in the third round. Ten-year-old Chris Squire went out in the second round.

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Canadian can lay claim to title of world's greatest driver after display of skill and nerve secures crown



The moment when Villeneuve knew he had become the world Formula One champion of 1997 — he crosses the line in third place in the European Grand Prix in Jerez

Fitting reward for true champion

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN
IN JEREZ

JACQUES VILLENEUVE was the world Formula One champion yesterday. He looked out from the podium, waved at the crowds lining the parched hillsides of Jerez and struggled to contain emotions he could barely comprehend. He did not need victory for vindication, because the European Grand Prix was more of a parable than a race.

Third place was enough to guarantee the title and generate a poetic sense of justice, but his forthright criticism of Michael Schumacher was suffused by a fleeting sadness. Villeneuve was reflective, rather than bitter, and was struck by unexpected feelings of gratitude towards the mechanics who wore vivid yellow wigs in his honor.

It was as if his achievement was so complete, so personal, that he was initially insulated from its impact. He shared Mika Hakkinen's joy at his first win, appreciated the enormity of the controversy he had sparked by the overtaking manoeuvre that won him the title, but was drained by the sudden reversal of roles.

Conventional wisdom condemned him as an immature arriviste before the final race of a schizophrenic season. He finished it as a hero, a sup-

posed answer to the excesses of the Mc Generation. His gesture, in allowing the McLaren pair of Hakkinen and David Coulthard past on the last lap, might have been made out of self-preservation, but it was being hailed as the epitome of sportsmanship.

"It will take some time for all this to sink in," Villeneuve said. "You see what it means in the faces of the team, of the people who are close to you. They've all put in extra hours to make this possible. They've worked at weekends, when they should have been at home with their families."

"It's been such a long season, the sort of season where you lose a lot of hair. There's been so much stress, so much aggravation, but now it's over. Finally, the job is done. It's special, very special."

Villeneuve could finally relax, try to make some sense of it all. He has paid a heavy price for his individualism, but the title is the ultimate symbol of self-justification. Two years after becoming IndyCar champion, he has laid claim to the unofficial status of the greatest racing driver in the world.

Although any dispassionate judgment still cannot avoid the conclusion that he lacks Schumacher's innate ability, his character, another area in which he was presumed to be



Coulthard, left, and Hakkinen raise Villeneuve aloft

weak, proved to be surprisingly durable. The momentum of the psychological battle, set by the unique parity of a qualifying session that could not separate the championship rivals, was irresistible.

Schumacher was deliberately distant, aloof. He pointedly ignored Villeneuve yesterday

morning, when the pair sat next to each other for the traditional group photograph. The Canadian looked pensive before he climbed into his car and stared out of his crash helmet with watery eyes that emphasised his relative youth.

His mental equilibrium was hardly helped by a poor start.

Schumacher, who had been the epitome of self-control on the grid, laughing with his pit crew, was alongside him within 100 metres. Villeneuve, who had suffered from excessive wheelspin from the line, erred on the side of caution and even allowed his team-mate, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, past before the first bend.

Frentzen, like Eddie Irvine, Schumacher's partner at Ferrari, was to be of minimal consequence. He gave way to Villeneuve on the eighth lap, by which time Schumacher had built a lead of 4.3sec, and the cars quickly became instruments of the rivals' will. They traded fastest laps, worked at optimum efficiency in what developed into a trial of strength.

"It became such a physical race," Villeneuve said. "We were just pushing, pushing, pushing. It was like a succession of qualifying laps." His efforts were not in vain, because soon after the first round of pit stops, he was in Schumacher's slipstream. Their duel was a succession of feints and parries, swordplay at speed.

Villeneuve was unforgivably blocked by the Sauber of Norbert Fontana, but that

was to be a minor irritation. On lap 48, he was, to use the typically precise summary of Frank Williams, "in the right place at the right time".

Schumacher's reputation will be forever stained by his response to Villeneuve's fateful challenge at the Dry Sac curve, but Villeneuve had to contain the eccentricities of a damaged car before he could complete the job. In such circumstances, what would have been his eighth victory of the season was an irrelevance.

Hakkinen overtook Coulthard on the penultimate lap and, once he was within range of the leader, who had been warned of the proximity of Irvine, took full advantage of his unexpected opportunity. "I wanted to win the championship," Villeneuve said. "Mika warned his first win. It was a fair exchange."

Fair, indeed. As the sun began to set, Villeneuve was visited by a succession of drivers in the Williams motorhome. They were led by Damon Hill, who knew, better than anyone, the way that his mind was racing and his body was pleading for mercy. It is, the former champion will confirm, the sweetest feeling in the world.

Bare-faced cheek of blaming Villeneuve

FROM ROB HUGHES IN JEREZ

As the wheels of facility spun, with Michael Schumacher's stricken Ferrari immovable in the sand, the heads dropped in the Ferrari pit. They had spent 47 laps admiring their potential world champion driver; they had, as professionals in such a dangerous game must, tried to suppress the pride and the euphoria that was visible in their flushed cheeks. And then, in what they would deny was a moment of attempted cheating, the prize was given away.

Et tu, Schumacher? It took two hours and 20 minutes after the collision, hours in which Schumacher was marched into the stewards room and marched out again, apparently exonerated, for him to speak. And then, bare-faced, he actually turned the blame on Jacques Villeneuve. "There have been more happy days in my life," Schumacher admitted. "I congratulate him, he did a good season and at the end of the day he has the result. But a mistake? Me?"

"I braked on the maximum, he braked even later. With this braking point, I wouldn't have made the corner. He wouldn't have made the corner... he used me a little bit as a brake. In the same circumstances, I wouldn't do anything different. If I had not been there, he would have gone a little bit into the grass."

Astonishing, foul words to camouflage a foul deed that back-fired.

Schumacher is, in my view, without peer as a racing driver; he had shown it for lap after lap, once again drawing a mastery veil over the fact that Ferrari is not yet the equal of Williams. But then, as Frank Williams, who visited Schumacher in his motorhome after the race, darkly said: "It was Adelaide revisited."

Worse things were said behind the pit lane. Italian supporters are more fickle than most and those who have been blessing Schumacher all season for making their famous marque so competitive were now devastating in re-priming: "He's a boogian, and a German!" one said. He was not actually wearing Ferrari uniform, but was a follower nevertheless.

Meanwhile, up to that "incident", the Ferrari pit had been a privilege to share. After 18

hollow years of waiting, they were beginning to feel fulfilled from the first, supreme moment on the grid, where Villeneuve conceded that his rival was phenomenal.

That start from Schumacher, so smooth, so expert, so balanced in releasing the power of combustion, brought relief and hope and longing. Jean Todt, the little Napoleonic Frenchman who oversees Ferrari's racing team, had an air of sudden serenity. He can look like a man permanently waiting in the dentist's chair, a man who trusts nothing, who fears the next corner in life.

He, and we, had seen and heard incredible things this weekend in Jerez. There had been the unique exactness of three drivers — Villeneuve, Schumacher and Heinz-Harald Frentzen — each clocking the same time, indi-

'We felt we had heard it all until Schumacher's justification for his villainy'

visible to the point of thousandth of a second, in qualifying. There had been Max Mosley, the president of the FIA, pronouncing "Formula One is now a greener sport than athletics — because athletes also put carbon monoxide into the air and don't put anything back."

We felt we had heard it all until Schumacher's justification for his villainy. The words about braking outside entirely the action of a man who seemed deliberately to steer his car into that of his main competitor when Villeneuve, bravely, daringly, competitively, darted inside him. The stewards have shirked their responsibility, their duty to a sport in which the protagonists must be prevented from making such a blatant effort to put a rival out of the contest. Without sharing the Italian's racist connotation, one is left with some sympathy for the use of the word hooligan.

THE RACE FOR THE WORLD DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP									
Driver	Points	Driver	Points	Driver	Points	Driver	Points	Driver	Points
J. Villeneuve (Can)	78	M. Schumacher (Ger)	76	M. Hakkinen (Fin)	42	D. Coulthard (GB)	39	J. Frentzen (Ger)	36
M. Salvo (Aust)	32	E. Irvine (GB)	24	R. Barrichello (Bras)	20	A. Wurz (Aust)	16	J. Herbert (GB)	15
A. Montoya (Col)	14	P. Digne (Fra)	12	M. Davidson (Aus)	10	M. Ward (GB)	8	M. Salvo (Aust)	7
M. van der Harst (Ned)	6	M. van der Harst (Ned)	5	M. van der Harst (Ned)	4	M. van der Harst (Ned)	3	M. van der Harst (Ned)	2
M. van der Harst (Ned)	1	M. van der Harst (Ned)	1	M. van der Harst (Ned)	1	M. van der Harst (Ned)	1	M. van der Harst (Ned)	1

Maranello in mourning

In Maranello, the home of Ferrari, 40,000 people had gathered in the town square yesterday. They included Romano Prodi, Italy's highest representative in parliament, and Don Alberto Bernardoni, Maranello's representative to heaven. Prime Minister Prodi left the town hall and was gone from Maranello soon after "the incident", while the priest, Bernardoni, had to abandon some carefully-laid plans.

He had pledged that on November 9, Italy's Thanksgiving Day, he would place a scale model of a Ferrari on the altar of the church at Maranello, where he has just replaced a priest who died in a car crash. Don Bernardoni, listening to "la musica del motore" the music that is the Ferrari engine, had also promised peals of bells for three days and three nights, to count the Ferrari workers in at 8am and out again at 5pm.

As if by some invisible umbilical cord, when the music stopped at Jerez, Placido Domingo, one of the more visible guests of Ferrari, lamented: "Now it will be difficult for me to sing *Vincere*, a song written by Puccini, with the message: 'I will win.'"

In the afternoon, the deflation as Michael Schumacher's car sank into the

Rob Hughes reflects on the Italian town driven to distraction

pit was mirrored by tears in the crowded Maranello square of Piazza Libertà. The Ferrari friends, rich and poor, well lubricated by free Lambrusco, had literally the urge to paint their square red. They brought a 250 square-metre Ferrari flag, they parked four kilometres from the town and walked, they decorated every window in Ferrari red. And their voices could be heard ten kilometres away, along the Modena road, where Luciano Pavarotti, that other tenor, has a villa.

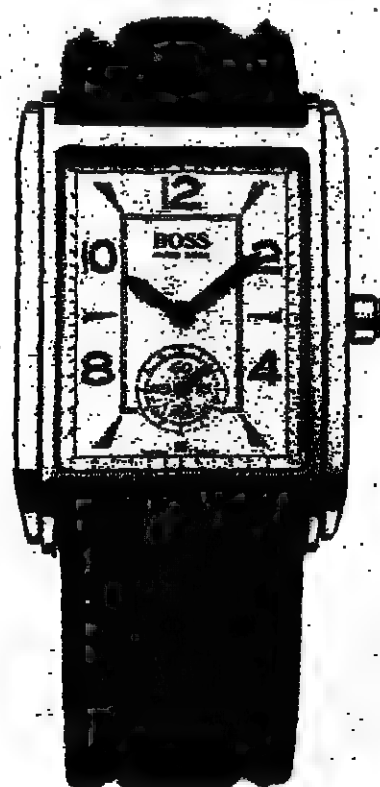
Maranello, total population 15,000, was dressed for the day of reckoning and as far away as Bern, in Switzerland, members of the local Ferrari Club were revving up their engines, their intention, had Schumacher managed to keep his car on the track, to drive down to join the party, departing one second after the chequered flag.

Outside the crowded town, it is reck-

oned that Italy will have had its biggest television audience since 24 million watched the 1994 World Cup final between Brazil and Italy. That, too, ended in tears... and one wonders how many were listening when the message finally came from Schumacher to his adopted people?

"I just want to say *grazi* to all tifosi for all their support." The tifosi, the most committed, emotional and impassioned fans of anything that moves on four wheels, will have another day and Schumacher promised: "We believe we have given them reason to be happy. As a team we have been, in my view, number one in the whole world. I hope they support us again next season, because I believe that, if we can be competitive from the start, the final day will be much more exciting, more happy for us to share than this."

A symbol of privilege, in the sense that he drives under the prancing horse banner that is adored beyond racing confidence, and yet eternally arrogant, Schumacher finally admitted: "We are human, both of us [he and Villeneuve] can make mistakes. I was very satisfied until that moment, and I hope to satisfy the tifosi next time."



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Premiership new boys humbled as champions scale new heights

Barnsley perish on United's peak



MANCHESTER UNITED 7
BARNSELEY 0
By Mark Hodgkinson

A LIGHT smattering of frost covered much of northern England on Saturday and there was a distinct chill in the air. The calendar merely confirmed the obvious: the official end of British Summer Time.

After this comprehensive and cruel defeat, it would also appear to be the end of Barnsley's summer time. They ran into Manchester United in scintillating form and, despite their best intentions, were left bewildered, like accident victims meandering around a hospital casualty department.

"I didn't get a sniff of any of the goals," David Watson, the Barnsley goalkeeper, said. All he and his team-mates were left with was the unpleasant odour of a heavy defeat and professional humiliation. They were extras in a United performance that finally warranted Old Trafford's snuff soubriquet, the Theatre of Dreams. The Barnsley players had just two roles — to run around valiantly, but pointlessly, and then hang their heads low when the ball went into their net. "There is a great confidence coming into the club," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "We are just on song, absolutely on song. You get performances like this once or twice a season. I don't think you could fault a single Barnsley player. They just didn't have an answer to the speed of our attacks."

Barnsley were allowed custody of the ball for long periods, but they were largely reduced to shuffling sideways across midfield. United, in contrast, tore forward, the ball moving from player to player almost too quickly for the naked eye.

Before the game, Barnsley had promised to remain undaunted and unafraid of their illustrious opponents. That was not even an issue. United were a lion's tail, impossible to grasp, always two moves ahead, the ball skittering towards the Barnsley penalty area.

Nell Redfern, the Barnsley captain, cajoled his team-mates and chased every shadow that flickered across his path, but the toll he epitomised was worthless and became effort merely for its own sake.



Cole and Giggs, the scorers of five goals between them, savour the splendour of supremacy. Photograph: Shaun Botterill / Allsport

against such sublime artistry. When Barnsley did fleetingly encroach on United's private party and trade tackles, they were invariably stung by the speed of thought, the touch of genius, that left them apologetic, their hands on hips, their hearts in their boots.

United have aspired to greatness for many years and, for 90 minutes on Saturday, it was irrefutably attained. Critics will say that it was only Barnsley, but Barnsley are of the same division and they were made to look like lost souls in football shirts.

The game was decidedly stodgy until the first goal after 17 minutes. Sheridan stroked the ball between two of his defenders and, while they held a meeting to discuss who should collect it, Cole raced in and

placed it defiantly past Watson. Barnsley's team spirit has been much excited this season, but the hostile manner in which first De Zeeuw and then Eaden berated Sheridan would suggest that peridy has found a foothold.

Within 90 seconds, Cole had scored again and Giggs made it three just a few minutes before half-time. Loyal to the theory of negating Giggs, Barnsley shepherded him across the pitch on to his right foot, but he still had the mastery to pound the ball into the net from distance. Cole completed his hat-trick seconds before the interval with another piece of exemplary finishing.

During the break, the Barnsley supporters were informed that their coaches had been moved from Elevator Road to Waters Edge, an area by the Manchester Ship Canal. The inherent sadism of locating a group of disheartened Barnsley fans in close proximity to a large expanse of water obviously escaped the announcer.

Barnsley held out for 12 minutes after half-time before Giggs scored again, followed by Scholes and, finally, Poyres, who set his feet dancing to elude the defence and place the ball contemptuously beyond the goalkeeper.

Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, was chipper despite the scoreline and that will be a capital asset during his team's winter of discontent. It means we will be spared the habitual moaning and moaning that accompanies such a tortuous ordeal. "There was nothing between the teams apart from

seven goals," he said, tongue-in-cheek. "United's team is full of high-class players and they take some stopping when they work up a head of steam. They seemed to be able to score at will."

Many Barnsley fans travelled straight to Blackpool after the match, intent on a pleasurable weekend, regardless of the result. This kind of defiance will keep alive the optimism of a long hot summer during a long, cold winter.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-3-1-2): P. Scholes (4), G. Cole (5), D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).

BARNSELEY (4-4-2): D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).

Liverpool force conspirators to lose the plot



LIVERPOOL 4
DERBY COUNTY 0
By David Maddock

ROY EVANS has a new haircut. Squint a little and it makes him appear a little like Julius Caesar, which is appropriate, given that most came to bury the Liverpool manager on Saturday, not to praise him.

His crime has been to offend the Republic of Anfield by failing to win a trophy for two seasons running. The daggers have been unsheathed since August: two poor results in the past week had only added to the thickening plot.

Derby County were not to be cast in the role of Brutus, however, as Liverpool played beautifully at times to record a victory. The importance of which was illustrated by huge smiles — and celebrations to match — from both players and management.

In the lounge afterwards, the players, almost to a man, had one question: Why had the criticism they expected, and accepted, crossed the boundary into abuse? The answer lies with Evans and his tenure as manager.

Liverpool need to win the championship and Evans offered a disastrous hostage to fortune by suggesting that he must do it this season. Now everyone is watching his side's results with a macabre interest, waiting for the crash to happen.

"There will be criticism, people are looking at our situation closely and looking at me," Evans said. "We deserved criticism for the way we played in the last week and what I wanted was a response from the players — and I got it."

"We had to show we cared after the week we have had. I asked for commitment and I got it. You could go through the dictionary trying to define it, but commitment isn't about steaming in and kicking people. It is about playing to the best of your ability. It is about applying yourself in the right way and, in one respect, taking responsibility for your performance. That includes me, because this is a team effort: all of us are in it together."

The conspirators were still able to collect evidence of Liverpool's failings this season, however, even as the players showed just how good they can be. If they could play as well as that against a Derby side that was fourth in the table, then why had they played so badly in Strasbourg?

No pride, maybe, or the manager getting his system wrong. "It didn't work, admittedly," Evans said, "but then you can have all the systems you like. Defend like we did and you will get beaten."

Evans had his Mark Anthony in the form of Steve McNamaman, who continued his rich vein of form by contributing towards three goals and scoring the fourth with a towering header that had him shaking his head in disbelief, and announcing: "You can call me Bob Laidford."

After 26 minutes, McNamaman began the move for the first goal, which flowed through Owen and the excellent Redknapp to allow Fowler a shooting opportunity that he executed with typical chilling efficiency from an angle on the left of the penalty area.

Then McNamaman came into his own. Running at Kozlowski, he created havoc in the Derby defence before setting up first Leamchandler and then Fowler for shots that both roared upon before discharging with some precision.

Fowler even had the luxury of missing a penalty. "I didn't have in my mind what I was going to do when I ran up and that's unusual for me," he said.

As well as they played in patches, though, Liverpool still looked a little frayed around the edges. As Jim Smith, the Derby manager, said: "That was one of the strangest four goals I've ever seen. It sounds stupid, but it was one of the most comfortable games I've had at Anfield."

A defence that looked solid for 70 minutes became nervous and vulnerable as soon as the visitors applied sustained pressure. Owen, for all his promise, spilt too much possession by failing to understand what was developing around him. Fowler confessed to a frustration at the number of his runs that went unrewarded by the youngsters.

But to dwell on these failings is to be petty. Let Liverpool have their moment: it is spring when we shall judge them. Evans knows that he must beware the ideo of March.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).

DERBY COUNTY (4-4-2): D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).

Gillespie provides striking alternative



NEWCASTLE UNITED 1
BLACKBURN ROVERS 1
By Ivo Teasdale

A WEEK ago at Elland Road, Newcastle United produced their worst performance since Kenny Dalglish's arrival amid a fog-bank of uncertainty over the direction of the club. Last Wednesday, their captain Robert Lee, did not look to hide his disappointment over their European Cup Champions' League defeat in Eintracht Frankfurt.

Now, three days later, their pride and physical resilience perforated, they had to contend with Blackburn Rovers. A year ago, such opposition would have been of scant concern, yet, unheralded, Blackburn have risen from the foot of the FA Carling Premiership last October to a point behind the leaders.

Newcastle could not field a centre forward or, indeed, anyone who looked the part physically. Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, was correct in his summation that they were wounded.

Already without Shearer and Asprilla, they also had to contend without Rush, whose knees, quite understandably, cannot cope with a pounding twice a week in footballing old-age. Lee was not fully fit and neither was Howey or a host of others. Dalglish was left with no option but to play Gillespie as his main striker. He, too, was limping long before the end.

Gillespie, though, managed all that was asked of him. He scored a goal — a very good one — and Newcastle did not lose. It was as much as they could hope for in the circumstances. The cautious approach that has characterised their football this season was epitomised by the continued withdrawn roles of Tomasson and Barnes.

The manner in which Gillespie controlled a long, speculative pass before sending a volley arching

into the far corner won him the admiration of Flowers, the Blackburn goalkeeper — if not until long after the match had ended.

Blackburn, too, opted for a relatively cautious formation, choosing not to deploy Duff, their talented 18-year-old winger, until the second half. The two chances that they had before they scored were blocked on the goal line, both times by Hamilton.

The equaliser was splendidly created and scored by Sutton, who was, of course, brought to Blackburn by Dalglish. Collecting the ball from Gallacher's header, he turned past Peacock, who continues to look too crude a defender for this level of the game, and shot low inside Smeicek's left-hand post for his tenth goal of the season in the Premiership.

Then there was the matter of eight bookings, six of them to Blackburn players for niggling offences. "Had this been a European match, there probably would not have been one," Dalglish said. "The difference between referees here and abroad is unbelievable."

It is not often that he is contradicted on his knowledge of the game by a fellow manager, but Hodgson did so now.

"This was a continental booking performance," he said. "Refereeing decisions are in the lap of the gods. We will contest the booking of Gallacher for asking why a free kick had not been given and of Filletto, who had run 45 yards after a ball and did not deserve to be booked for taking a shot at goal, but there is no point any manager discussing a referee's performance because, as soon as he opens his mouth, he is wrong."

NEWCASTLE UNITED (3-5-1-1): P. Smeicek (4), D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).



Sutton: splendid equaliser

Wednesday fall on sword



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1
CRYSTAL PALACE 3
By Keith Pike

THERE are enough fast-food outlets and bars on the Hillsborough concourses to satisfy a small army, enough peripheral entertainment to put P.T. Barnham to shame, although he might have considered still-walkers carrying violin cases and men dressed as furry animals falling over in time to music as seriously unfunny. Inevitably, though, there is the match and, suddenly, exacting your own teeth without anaesthetic seems a reasonable option.

To lose at home to Crystal Palace is no disgrace these days — Steve Coppell's team have won more points on their travels than any other in the FA Carling Premiership and on Saturday were at the top of their game — but there are ways to lose and Sheffield Wednesday chose the least edifying. They surrendered. Wednesday played without passion, and passionless teams get relegated.

Wednesday's hopes flickered initially and were then briefly reignited. Early on, Miller made excellent saves to thwart Collins and Whittingham and, with half an hour to go, Collins's header had reduced the deficit to 2-1. But,

almost immediately, Shipperley restored Palace's two-goal advantage at the Kop end, from where chants of "Pleat out" spread quickly.

There are excuses, there always are. David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, rightly pointed out that the loss of Altherton, who could be out for the season with an inoperable knee condition, has robbed the team of its natural leader and a porous defence of its protective shield, and that Booth's goals and Hyde's industry have also been erased by injuries.

Yet when a side fails to mark its footers at corners, leaves opponents free to take target practice on the fringes of its area and is second

to just about every ball, the problems go deeper than a minor spate of injuries. Wednesday have conceded 33 goals in 14 games this season, collapsed spectacularly twice and been humbled by Grimsby Town in the Coca-Cola Cup. They lack not only method, but also conviction. In short, they are deep in trouble.

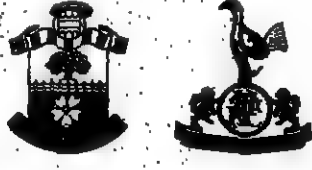
With the focus firmly on Pleat's problems, the excellence of Palace's performance was overshadowed, which is a pity. Their own quest on stilts, Lirighan and Hirdarsson, were superbly solid at the back, the midfield hummed with purpose and the strikers struck hard. Above all, their determination and work-rate put Wednesday to shame.

Goals by Hirdarsson and Rodger had set Palace up for their first victory at Hillsborough since 1924. Next up for Wednesday? Manchester United and, three weeks later, Arsenal.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): P. Smeicek (4), D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).

Hirst proves to be a bargain buy



SOUTHAMPTON 3
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 2
By Nick Szepanik

IT IS not only fantasy football that requires a suspension of disbelief: reality can also be hard to take. On Saturday, Gerry Francis, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, found it difficult to accept his team had lost a match that he felt they had dominated, and in which they led twice — yet it is scarcely more credible that a proven goalscorer of England's pedigree, in the prime years of his career, can be transferred between two FA Carling Premiership clubs for just £2 million.

David Hirst, 29, whose two left-footed strikes in the final half-hour settled this match, his home debut, in Southampton's favour, was signed a little over a week ago from Sheffield Wednesday for the sort of knockdown price usually associated with damaged goods. Indeed, he has spent long stretches of recent seasons on the sidelines with a series of injuries.

"I had a thorough medical — maybe too thorough really, but that's another story — and obviously the gaffer did his homework and thought the gamble was worth taking," Hirst said. "When somebody came along and spent the money that they did, I was only too delighted to try and repay that."

David Jones, the Southampton manager, said: "He's a quality player. With what's going on in the game at the moment, I felt it was two million well spent."

Hirst scored his first goal after 66 minutes, hitting a shot on the turn across Ian Walker and in off the base of the far post. Twelve minutes later, Le Tissier and Davies moved the ball in from the left and Hirst was there again.

The victory took Southampton above Barnsley and Sheffield Wednesday.

On Saturday, Francis was not the only one who expected his team to win, but Hirst hit back almost immediately. An obviously unfit Anderson was sent on, to little effect, before Hirst's winner.

"We've got to be more professional, learn to concentrate for 90 minutes," Francis said. "We were in total control, scored two great goals and I can't think of any stage when I thought we were going to lose. I suppose that's what makes football such a notoriously funny game." His smile, though, was of disbelief, not amusement.

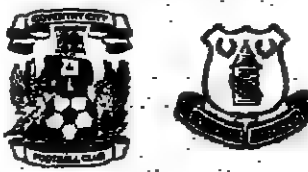
SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).



Dominguez: long-range strike

Keeping young guns silent



COVENTRY CITY 0
EVERTON 0
By Peter Robinson

FOOTBALL, they say, is a young man's game and it's true that the likes of Giggs and Beckham, Redknapp and Fowler are its most marketable stars, but in Coventry on Saturday, the middle-aged masses had their revenge. Two of their number stood up and silenced anybody careless enough to whisper that the game belongs to the teenyboppers, the young guns or the Spice Boys.

At one end of the pitch was Steve Ogriovic, 40 years young, big face, big hands; at the other, Neville Southall, a slip of a lad at 39, just big. There was an extended rendition of "Anything you can do, I can do better," a polished, word-perfect routine that was more music hall than Top of the Pops and none the worse for that. Neither is exactly bedroom poster material — it would be like having a huge picture of your dad looming over the Duvel — but they were still heroes.

There were 20 others on the field at Highfield Road, but try as they might, they simply made up an energetic supporting cast, frenetically changing from one end to the other to ensure each goalkeeper got his turn in the spotlight. Ferguson was menacing, Oster elusive, Stuart sharp and sensible. Huckerby led the Coventry company, pacy and direct, ably supported by Hall and Howarth. None could score. Although Ferguson and Oster struck woodwork, Shaw cleared off the line and Cadamarteri was denied a justifiable penalty, there was usually an outstretched Ogriovic hand or the massive presence of Southall in the way.

"Oggy was magnificent," Howarth said afterwards, echoing general praise. "He just keeps going on and on, as Nev does. Neville was the best in the world and he is still a top-class goalkeeper. They both are." Nobody asked Keirball or

art sharp and sensible. Huckerby led the Coventry company, pacy and direct, ably supported by Hall and Howarth. None could score. Although Ferguson and Oster struck woodwork, Shaw cleared off the line and Cadamarteri was denied a justifiable penalty, there was usually an outstretched Ogriovic hand or the massive presence of Southall in the way.

"Oggy was magnificent," Howarth said afterwards, echoing general praise. "He just keeps going on and on, as Nev does. Neville was the best in the world and he is still a top-class goalkeeper. They both are." Nobody asked Keirball or

Gordon Strachan, his opposite number, how either could be replaced, it seemed a silly question. Both will surely be fixtures for as long as they want.

Kendall was a satisfied man and he had every right to be. Ten days earlier, Everton had reached their nadir at Coventry, a 4-1 defeat in the Coca-Cola Cup sparking a confrontation between manager and players on the pitch. This was more like it, a competitive display that perhaps deserved three points, not one, with Ferguson earning acclaim from friend and foe for his marauding performance, although a goal, made or scored, would have been nice.

That, though, would have meant beating Ogriovic, and that proved beyond him, line saves stopping, in particular, a first-half shot and a second-half header. Southall's best was saved for last, blocking Johansen late on, but by then the wonder was not that the save was made, but that anybody wasn't too

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): P. Smeicek (4), D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).

EVERTON (4-4-2): D. Watson (4), N. Redfern (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4), D. Scholes (4), D. Watson (4), D. Sheridan (4), D. Zeeuw (4), D. Eaden (4), D. Poyres (4).

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — D Jupp, D Blackwell, C Perry, B Thatcher — M Hughes, R Earle, V Jones, N Ardley — E Ekechi, C Cont (sub: M Gayle, 79min).

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martin — G Heale (sub: A Maybury, 58), I Radebe, D Wetherhead, D Robertson — L Bowyer, D Hopkin (sub: D Lilley, 78), A Hauland, B Ribeiro — H Kewell, R Wallace, R Adams, G Ridsdale.

ITV's winning formula is antidote to Walker

Given the mess that Murray Walker regularly makes of his commentary, it seemed a little rich that he should have spent quite so much of yesterday afternoon haranguing the Spanish producer responsible for the television pictures of the European Grand Prix. From the moment that the producer cut away to a helicopter shot just in time to miss Villeneuve's first attempt to overtake Michael Schumacher, the poor chap could do nothing right.

If he concentrated on the two contenders for the world championship, Walker wanted to see what was going on further down the field. "I do hope the Spanish producer is not going to stay with

Schumacher and Villeneuve for the whole race," he said. Heaven forbid that he concentrate on the world championship when there were all those battles for minor places that we could be watching — what a ridiculous idea.

It was no better when the championship was all-but decided. Was Walker grateful for some superb slow-motion replays of Schumacher's desperate last lunge? He was not. "The Spanish producer is apparently content to stick with Villeneuve for the last six laps," Walker noted disapprovingly. Actually, he was not and gave the following five a couple of laps of glory.

Given that the slightest mistake by Villeneuve could have cost him the championship, it

was a decision that bordered on the foolhardy, but one that typically went unrewarded by Walker. I wonder what he would have been saying if his beloved Damon Hill was driving a badly damaged car but still needed to finish to win? I bet it wouldn't be: "Let's look at the battle for third."

All this talk of misses would be fine if ITV was infallible, but it isn't — as we so memorably learnt at the Hungaroring, when Hill went into the lead for the first and only time this season... about three seconds after ITV had gone for a commercial break.

And yesterday it was ITV, not the Spanish producer, that managed to miss Schumacher's potentially crucial second pitstop, as we realised as



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

soon as we returned from the commercials to hear Jim Rosenthal's voice rather than Walker's. After a season of ITV's Formula One coverage, we all know what Rosenthal's voice means — it's videotape time.

As for the idea of Walker being infallible... well, how long have you got? During practice on Saturday, Walker surpassed himself. "And the coolest man on the track..."

he began, as Villeneuve posted his pole-position time. "Is Michael Schumacher... still in the Ferrari garage... having not turned a wheel?" Two seconds later, the computer timing system — itself not having the best of afternoons — gave a little electronic hiccup and Schumacher was third. Quite an achievement for a man still in his garage.

getting for mistakes that are part and parcel of a spectacle (the contrived finish yesterday was just one of a number this season that make me reluctant to use the word "sport"), that conducts its business at 180mph. Instead, they should concentrate on what they do well. Apart from the commercial breaks, which will always annoy some people, and the hugely embarrassing Hill miss, ITV has had an extremely good first season of Formula One.

It has given Rosenthal a new lease of life, ensured that Walker can put off any talk of retirement for at least another year (he significantly let drop that next season will be his fiftieth year commenting on motor sport) and produced

one star — Martin Brundle. He did not have a vintage day yesterday... his trademark saunter down the grid got lost in the crowds' and he was uncharacteristically diplomatic about the Schumacher incident — but he has had a great season. Only the offer of a grand-prix drive over the winter would thwart ITV's determination to have him on board next year.

As to whether Formula One has been a commercial success for ITV, we would need an accountant and a contract lawyer to tell us. Average audiences of 4.5 million indicate that its multimillion-pound outlay has brought the core, grand-prix audience — young, aspirational and largely male — from the BBC. Two

things must worry the network bosses, though, as they set about making plans to build on that success for next year. First, the biggest audience of the season was almost seven million for the Brazilian Grand Prix, which took place before the full horror of Hill's lack of competitiveness became apparent.

The second came yesterday, with the disappointing display by Jordan, the team that Hill will be racing for next year. Market research by ITV confirms — no doubt to the annoyance of the other British drivers — that Hill's form remains crucial to people's decision to watch or not. If he has picked the wrong team for the second year running, it will be ITV that pays for it.

"I know you don't care — it was small potatoes — but the point is, lives were on the line here on Saturday"

Brickies and Bulls fight to the death

Bourne to Win? It says in fancy iron-work over the imposing grand gates to Sittingbourne Football Club and, even on a bright October afternoon, with blue sky above, it gives you as much pause on your journey as any "Abandon hope" message might do. "Sittingbourne?" you can't help thinking, your eyes swivelling. "Bourne to Win? Have I missed something?"

The sense of vertigo doesn't end there, either. Beyond these high gates is a huge 8,000-capacity stadium called Central Park, evidently modelled on the Celtic Riverside Stadium at Middlesbrough. It's all very peculiar. Sittingbourne is in the Dr Marten's League and is towards the bottom of it. The Brickies have lost eight of their 12 league games and their average home crowd is 450. Watching one of their matches in this white-elfin palace is like seeing people play ping-pong in the Kremlin. Clearly, if you like your football jazzed up by hubristic complications, this far-flung corner of marshy north Kent is absolutely the place to go.

On Saturday, Sittingbourne played Hereford United for a place in the first round of the FA Cup. The result was a 2-2 draw, the attendance was 1,010 and the replay takes place tomorrow night at Edgar Street. I know you don't care, but that's life. The point is, if this match was small potatoes by Match of the Day standards, it was still a highly engaging occasion. Lives were on the line, you see. Inspect the finances of either of these clubs and all you will find is a couple of old tractors, bulldozers and a bull of buff. And it's no joke for either of them.

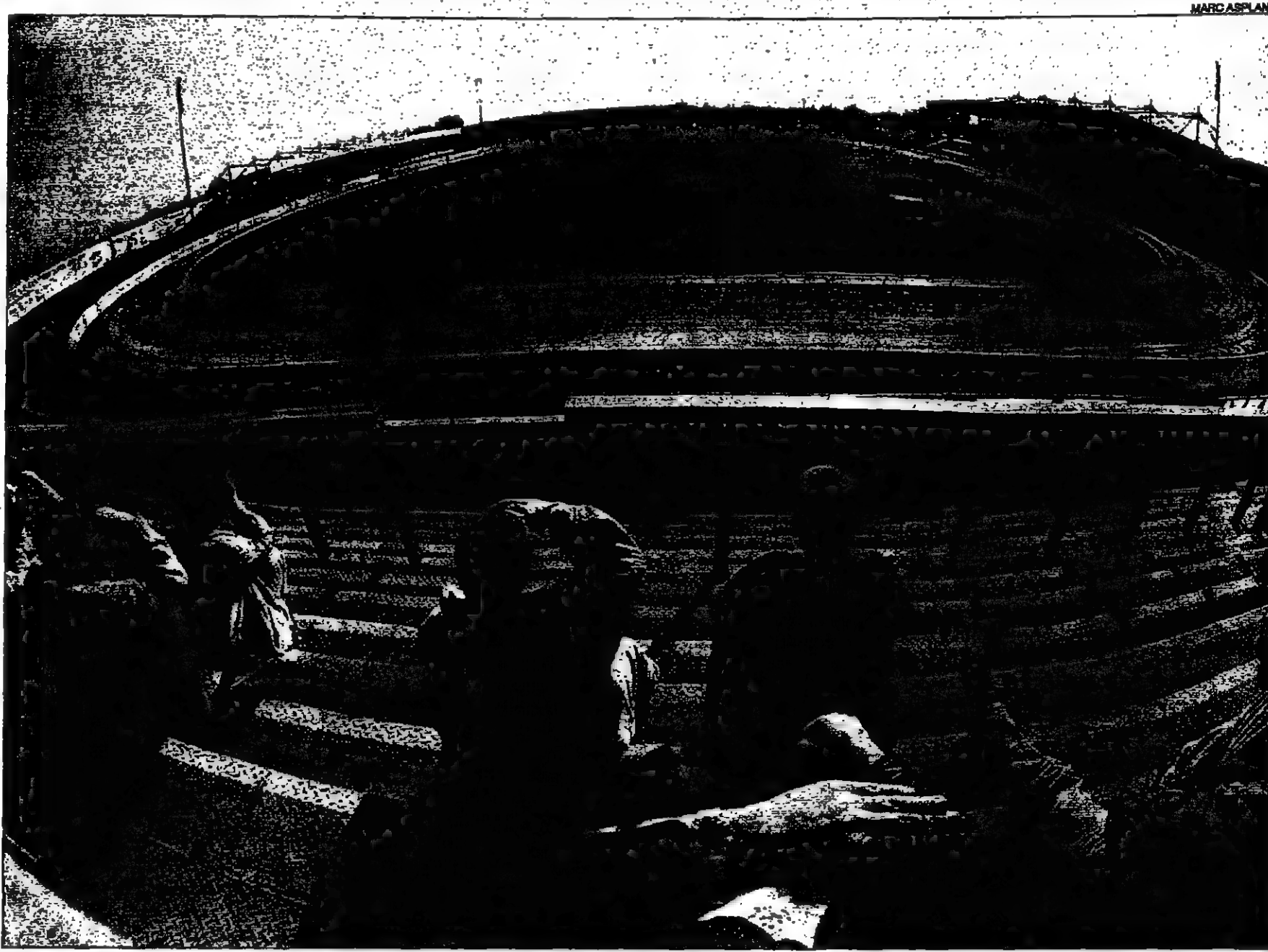
Which team deserved most underdog support on Saturday? It was impossible to judge. Their respective hard-luck stories were

LYNNE TRUSS



equally compelling. Sittingbourne once made £6.5 million by selling its town-centre ground, which could have set the club up for life if the building of this ludicrous stadium, now owned by the council, hadn't crippled it. It's 35 years since the Brickies made the first round of the FA Cup. Meanwhile, as for Hereford — well, lead them eyeless in chains if you want an effect more poignant and Miltonic than this.

Hereford, of course, famous for FA Cup giant-killing, lost the ferocious battle for last seat in the league at the end of last season. There was a big battle with Brighton, the league vessel rocked dangerously from side to side and then, on the last day, with a curse and a splash, Hereford sank full fathom five into the Vauxhall Conference. Gung. Since then, apparently, the club has never managed to come up for air. Paying its players has become a custom it reserves for birthdays.



White elephant of the marshes: Central Park, Sittingbourne, October 25, 1997. Somewhere towards the sun, the home team are playing Hereford United

The Bulls brought 120 fans with them on Saturday and no visible directors. This over-grand setting, with 7,000 ghosts, situated symbolically at the end of a road to nowhere, must have cheered their spirits wonderfully.

I would be marvellous to report, against this background of doom, that the football itself was a revelation, but actually it was quite awful. Sittingbourne's first-half performance was enough to make grown men cry. It's mostly a teenage side and was obviously outclassed in every way, even by Hereford's haircuts.

So, although the Brickies conceded only one goal, they spent the whole half running backwards as

if tied by elastic to their own posts, while the Hereford keeper had more uninterrupted thinking time than the average Cistercian monk. For a team sponsored by Medway Galvanising, Sittingbourne seemed curiously ungalvanised themselves.

Yet in the second half, things looked a great deal more lively. Perhaps Medway Galvanising's "hot dip" process had been employed at half-time. Either way, the home fans were immensely cheered up when, at 50 minutes, Trevor Mathewson, the Hereford defender, scored a very beautiful equalising own-goal. It was the sort of goal that you want to watch again (unless you are Matthewson). A heroic aerial lunge, excellent contact with the ball, scoring

deep into the bottom left-hand corner. Lovely.

At 56 minutes, the disgraced Mathewson appeared to redeem himself by blocking a goalmouth shot from young Kenny Pavey — but alas, he put the ball directly in the path of Sittingbourne's Mark Miller, who scored. This was much more excitement than we'd bargained for. "The Conference side are in big trouble now!" a Kent Radio chap feverishly reported. The home fans in the South Stand, who had previously leered in twos and threes on the crush barriers like figures in an architect's drawing, were suddenly transformed into quite a lively football crowd. It was great.

But since you know the final score already, there is no hiding

the fact that Hereford equalised, thus ensuring a replay back at home. "For Hereford," I heard someone say, "this is the best result they could have, because they'll make some money from the replay." So it wasn't so bad and, personally, I was relieved. Worried by the thought of those fluffily trouser buttons, I'd have hated to see either side lose. I'm just like that. Too big-hearted, I'm sorry.

The third act of Saturday's drama was the FA Cup first-round draw, but it was odd how few people hung around for it. Somehow they didn't want to know what would happen next. "Are we going to hear the draw?" I fussed, in the directors' box. "Have you got a telly for the draw? When's the draw?" A small radio was pro-

duced, but nobody listened to it, though finally the dread word did go round... "Brighton?" accompanied by hollow laughs. Brighton? Hereford's nemesis. The club with no home. The fans with no reputation. The gate with no financial potential. Brighton.

The directors of Sittingbourne performed a collective shrug at the news, just as their Man of the Match, Damien Hodge, came in to collect his bottle of champagne from the sponsor. Margate had drawn Fulham, damn them. They were getting Kevin Keegan. "Give it back outside, Damien," the chairman called to his startled player. "I'll need it for next week." Hodge looked sheepish and went out. As Sigmund Freud once said, there's no such thing as a joke.

SPORTS LETTERS

Keegan and moneymen

From Mr Robert Griffiths

Sir, When will Kevin Keegan face the truth and realise that he is no different from the "moneymen" of football that he enjoys denigrating in his recently-published autobiography? Keegan received a hefty pay-off when he left Newcastle United and will receive more for the book.

Now Keegan has gone to Fulham and joined Mohamed Al Fayed, who is the ultimate football moneymen and who bought Fulham after failing to get the controlling interest in another club. Keegan can look forward to spending millions of someone else's money again and if it ends in failure, he can put this into another money-spinning book.

Keegan should try running a club on a shoestring, where success must be earned and not bought. He should then realise what real graft is. Given the money that Keegan has available, any manager in the second division would be able to gain promotion.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT GRIFFITHS,
3 Llys Dyffryn,
Mynyddon Park,
Denbigh,
Denbighshire.

Amazing success of Chinese women athletes

From Mr Conrad Truedson

Sir, The recent world records by Chinese women in athletics have caused much speculation, mostly negative, as to how they can run so fast. John Bryant's defence of Ma Junren's methods (October 23) is a welcome addition.

He points out that China has a huge pool of talent to draw from, with a population of a billion. Surely, he argues, with that and an extensive sports system, as China has, such performances are not impossible. But where are the great male runners? No Chinese male has ever broken 28 minutes for 10,000 metres or

13min 20sec for 5,000 metres, yet their women athletes are running incredibly fast. It makes no sense whatsoever, a point that was brought up in 1993, when a similar explosion of astonishing times occurred. Moreover, all these remarkable times happen only in China. In 1994, there were efforts made to bring some of these phenomenal women to the European circuit. Unfortunately they were "unavailable".

Yours sincerely,
CONRAD TRUEDSON,
University of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire.
rsct1@uax.cc.nottingham.ac.uk

Double act

From Mrs Sara Ansell

Sir, Victoria goes with Albert just as Laurel does with Hardy, but your sailing report (October 22) is wrong when it says the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race boats are finishing their first leg at the Victoria & Albert Basin in Cape Town. Cape Town's famous waterfront is called Victoria and Alfred. Mother and son have separate basins there.

In 1860, Victoria's second son, Alfred, laid the foundation, so to speak, of the harbour when he ceremoniously tipped rock into the water for construction of the breakwaters.

Yours faithfully,
SARA ANSELL.

Owls House, Potten End, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Unsporting bulge

From Mr Phil Watson

Sir, The answer to Danny Baker's question about the ball being stuffed up an outfielder's jumper by the goalkeeper is that this would be considered "unsporting behaviour" by the referee. An indirect free kick would be awarded to the opponents on the edge of the goal area, after the cautioning of the two miscreants.

Yours faithfully,
PHIL WATSON,
3928 Spruce Hill,
Cedar Falls, Iowa,
United States.
pwwatson@cedarfall.net

Referees' strip

From Mr Neil Ward

Sir, The confusion caused by the referee's strip being similar to the hideous away strip worn by Newcastle United at Elland Road last weekend should come as little surprise to most of us. I would like to suggest to the Premiership a solution to this problem. Why not have the match officials always wear the same uniform? I would suggest an entirely black kit would stand out very well. Funnily enough, in the lower divisions they are already using such a system.

Yours etc,
NEIL WARD,
13 Courtlands Crescent,
Banstead,
Surrey.

Bias over bowls?

From Mr B.J. Goodchild

Sir, As an armchair devotee of bowls for some years, I was pleased to read Matthew Bond's appreciative article (TV Action Replay, October 20). The fact that there are (if I remember rightly) only two televised tournaments a year may well be due to television sports executives' sharing the widespread impression that bowls is a game for golden oldies and that it lacks excitement. Such a view is wrong on both counts. The tension as a player attempts to draw the shot or drive at the head to save the set or match can be as keen as anywhere in sport.

Perhaps Mr Bond's spotlight will save us having to wait for the advent of multi-channel digital television to enjoy more bowls on the small screen.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY GOODCHILD,
36 Hinton Road,
Wallington,
Surrey.

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

Tomorrow: Tiger Woods — preparing to break the \$2 million earnings barrier this week
Wednesday: Ireland in the World Cup — preview of the crucial play-off against Belgium
Thursday: Taking Europe by storm — Alan Lee on Manchester's ice hockey team

"I saved £150—but lost my company!"

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Ogea pitch in to bai out Indian batters

hears sha

Florida feel the heat as Cleveland take World Series into deciding game

Ogea pitches in to bail out Indians' batters

FROM KEITH BLACKMORE IN MIAMI

THE Cleveland Indians pushed the World Series to its limit on Saturday night, beating the Florida Marlins 4-1 in Miami to force a final, deciding game. It is the first time since 1991 that baseball's showpiece has been taken to a seventh game and only the second time in the past decade, but that it should be these teams that did it is only the latest in a long line of surprises this season.

Many believe that neither team should even be in the series. The Marlins, in only their fifth year of existence, did not even win their National League division, finishing nine games behind the perennial powers, the Atlanta Braves. The Indians finished the season with the ninth-best record of the 28 teams in the two leagues. And yet here they both were, the champions, respectively, of National and American Leagues, scrapping for the biggest prize of all.

The series that they have produced has, in many ways, been a disappointment to those living outside Ohio and South Florida, but it has been evenly contested, each side winning in turn through the first six games, and the standard of play has risen appreciably since the low point of game three, played in the frozen state of Jacobs Field, Cleveland.

If game six was perhaps not the most exciting of the series, it was certainly the best played, with the pitchers and fielders obviously all glad to be back in balmy baseball temperatures, and it found another surprising hero: the Indians pitcher, Chad Ogea.

Ogea, 27, had pitched the Indians to victory in game two, but he came to the mound on Saturday knowing it was do or die. The Marlins only needed one more victory to take the series and had the advantage of playing the last two games at home before 57,000 of their own wildly excited fans in Pro Player Stadium.

Until finally in the sixth, Ogea pitched with great skill, allowing the Marlins only one run and

giving them little encouragement, but he made his decisive contribution with the bat.

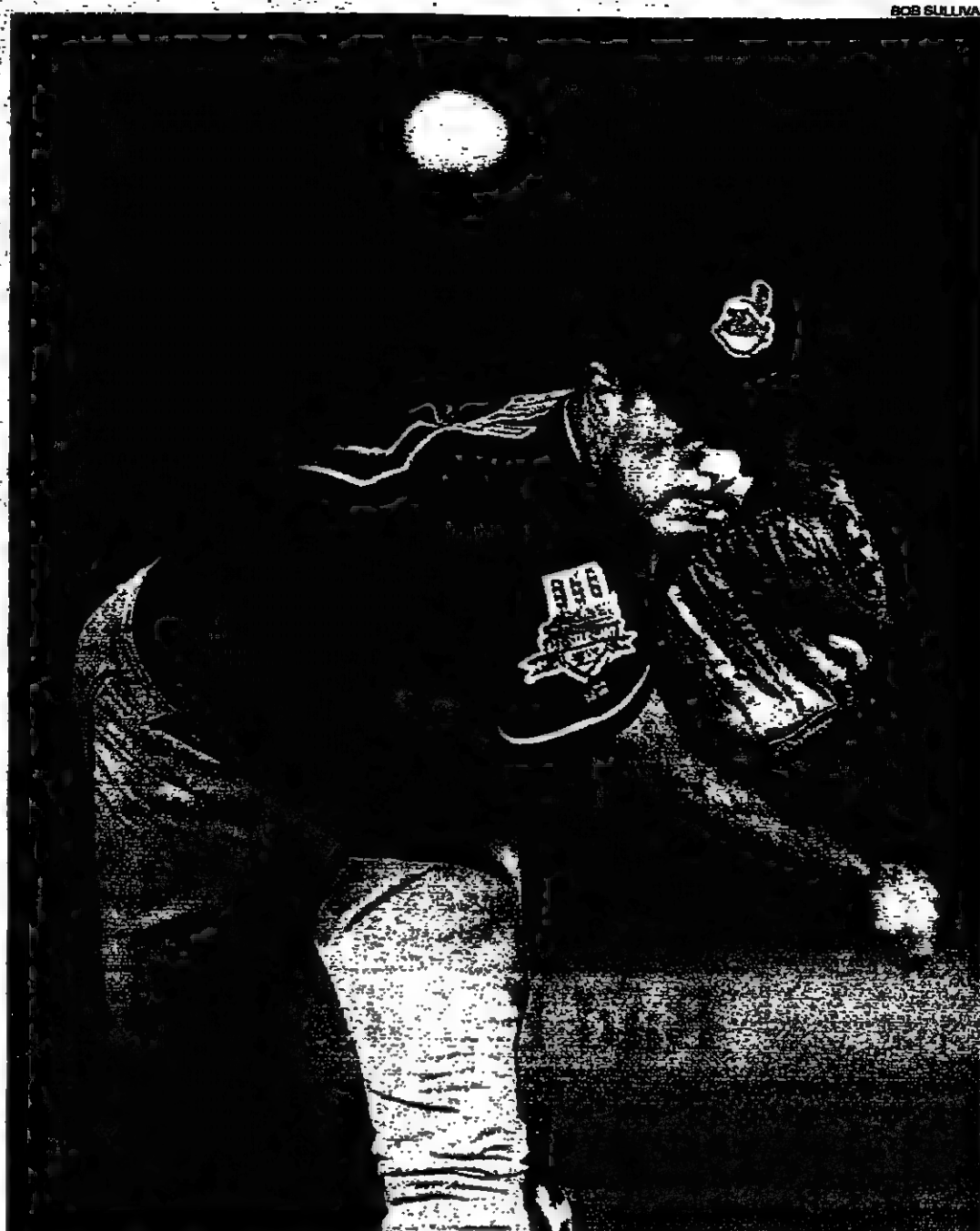
This was all the more surprising since pitchers from the American League rarely find themselves swinging a bat. Under the controversial designated-hitter rule, their place is taken by a specialist batter who does not field. Ogea had virtually no experience of hitting in the Major Leagues.

When he came to the plate in the second inning, his opposite number, Kevin Brown, the ace of the Florida pitching staff, was in a spot of bother: the bases were loaded and only one man was out. At least, he must have thought, he could get Ogea out quickly and easily.

Ogea, though, confounded expectations by singling hard down the rightfield line. It was his first Major League hit and it drove in two runs. Later he admitted that he had followed his father's advice. "He told me, swing hard at the ball in case you hit it."

As it turned out, that would have been enough to defeat the Marlins, who were profligate, failing to drive in ten runners from scoring positions, but Ogea was not to know that then and so he gave himself another hit in the fifth inning, going on to score his team's fourth and final run on a sacrifice by Manny Ramirez, who had driven in the third run, too.

If the Marlins were going to rally, their chance came in the sixth. Ogea had gone and two men were on the bases with two out and Charles Johnson was coming up to bat. Johnson riled a low, scudding shot towards left field only to see Omar Vizquel, the Indians shortstop, dive



Ogea pitches the Indians towards victory in Miami before helping to complete the job as a batter

full length to his right, catch the ball, stand and throw him out by half a step at first base. It was a dazzling play, preventing two runs from scoring and killing the inning.

The Marlins' last hope expired in the seventh. Bobby Bonilla, their loquacious, but error-prone, third

baseman, came up with the bases loaded and two men out. He flied tamely to centre field and the game was as good as over.

When it finally was, Mike Hargrove, the Indians manager, promptly announced that he was removing Charles Nagy, a veteran, from his position as the starter for game seven, handing the responsibility to 21-year-old Jarret Wright, the winner of game four. It will be a heavy burden. Cleveland last won the championship in 1948, a year before even Hargrove, whose 48th birthday it was yesterday, was born.

As game six was being played, much was being made of the fact that Denver airport had been closed by a blizzard that prevented the Denver Broncos football team from leaving for a game in Buffalo. In the warmth of Miami, such news seemed vaguely ridiculous, but it was noted that had the Colorado Rockies baseball team come as far and as fast as the Marlins, who joined the National League at the same time they did, game six would have been in Denver and would certainly have been buried under the snow. So much for the Boys of Summer.

GAME SIX DETAILS

Inning	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Runs	Hits	Errors
Cleveland	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	7	0
Florida	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	7	0

Winning pitcher: Chad Ogea. Losing pitcher: Kevin Brown. Save: Jose Mesa.

Series level at 3-3.

The deciding game will be televised live by Channel 5.

Teenagers share in game's growing pains

BY SAMON WILDE

BEING a young, promising basketball player is an uncertain business if you are planning on beating a path to the big time. Does your school or club have facilities good enough to help you? Have you even progressed that far? You may possess the build of a skyscraper, but not have got beyond scrimmaging in the street. The salaries on offer in the National Basketball Association (NBA) are the stuff of fantasies — and likely to stay that way.

The Wells Inter Area schools tournament, held at Lilleshall over the past three days, is one of the best ways to get noticed — and for national age-group coaches to notice you. More than 150 of the best boys and girls under the age of 16 pounded the courts and put their minds and bodies under new degrees of stress in the hope of earning international action.

"When they are this age, the real purpose is to identify future talent," Chris Morgan, the head coach of the cadet boys, who has been working in this area of the sport for 20 years, said. "A few days ago, we found a lad who is 6ft 5in. He is 14 years old. He is too young to take part here at Lilleshall, but we will fast-track him into his club in London and he can come and train with us."

"He may struggle at first, but the other boys must help him. He is the sort of boy we need. It is a big problem finding the big boys early

enough." In the United States and other countries, of course, they start seriously working on them from a much younger age.

One of Morgan's earliest tasks after the conclusion of the tournament, which involved teams from four regions, is to select a side to take part in the home nations' competition next March. In an ambitious programme, England also intend to hold a series of training camps and compete in, or stage, a number of other events before the European qualifying tournament next August.

But selection for a national squad is far from the end of hardship. Funding is desperately scarce at



this level, despite help from the Sports Council, and every event is liable to become a financial hand-to-mouth operation.



Michael Feeley, of Midlands under-16s, gets past the South East opposition. Photograph: Paul Rogers

Every competitor was required to provide £50 towards the cost of going to Lilleshall; every England training session can cost another £30. Trips overseas are even more expensive, which all adds up to a substantial annual bill in a sport that claims to be the most "democratic" — that is, affordable — of all.

These are outings that some simply cannot meet, placing them in danger of dropping out of the sport, and the catch-22 is that the more successful a team is, the more costly the process becomes. Morgan remembers one side he was involved with who did so well that they almost put themselves, their friends and associates out of pocket

trying to fund their winning habit. Far from discovering about riches, one of the earliest things a talented basketball player finds out about is fund-raising, although in this — for some reason — the girls prove better than the boys. "Sometimes you find yourself sucked into fund-raising activities when what you should be doing is helping them improve their game," Morgan said.

Providing the best youngsters with good competition is another constant worry, although the links between the English Schools Basketball Association — which was founded 40 years ago — and the English Basketball Association are growing, facilitating movement into the highest ranks. Participation is growing on the back of television coverage of the NBA, but good coaches are in short supply.

The sport's strength remains in the urban areas. "There are pockets of development around the country," Terry Webb, national coach to the England girls, said. "We need to expand, although mini-basketball, which is based in Hertfordshire and has less emphasis on competition, is starting to make an impact. The tournament here is our chance to persuade the boys and girls to play at international level — to sell the game to them and their parents."

The Midlands won the boys' under-16 competition, North the girls' under-16 and South East the boys' and girls' under-15s.

PASSING THE BUCK

INSIDE THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

Nike ready to just do kit deal with FA



So Nike is going to make the England kit?

Probably. It is leading the race to get the new contract from the Football Association, with the likes of Adidas, Admiral, Pony, Reebok and Umbro, the kit-makers at present, also in the running. A decision is expected in the next couple of weeks.

Does this mean Hoddle's boys will "just do it" in the World Cup next summer?

No. The seven-year Umbro deal runs until summer 1999.

So why is the FA so keen to tie up a deal now?

It takes about 18 months to approve designs and order kits for a changeover. Also, the FA is keen to capitalise on England's qualification for the World Cup finals to increase the amount of money that it can get from a kit deal.

And Nike is keen to break into football?

Or soccer as the Americans call it, Nike being based in Oregon on the west coast of the United States. Nike already has basketball, athletics and tennis sewn up and also struck a great deal with Tiger Woods in golf. It sees soccer as a key element in its global strategy.

As they know down at Highbury.

Nike started by signing up Ian Wright five years ago and then struck a deal with Arsenal that was so lucrative that it tipped the ante for all the kit deals in the FA Premier League.

How much is it worth, then?

A cool £40 million over seven years.

So the rumours about a £150 million deal for England are true?

As one FA insider put it: "If Nike has offered £150 million, we'd have bitten their hand off." A four-year deal for £50 million is nearer the mark.

But didn't Nike pay £80 million to sponsor US Soccer and £130 million for the Brazil kit?

Those deals are not quite what they seem. The American deal and the ten-year Brazil contract are for much more than shirt sponsorship. Nike is in charge of marketing the leisurewear for the football federations and, in Brazil's case, arranges all the team's friendly matches and keeps the television revenue from those games.

And the FA would not give that much control to Nike?

Absolutely not. The FA is pretty good at negotiating its own friendly and television deals, thank you very much.

What does this all mean for Umbro?

It is not good news at all. Umbro has thrived on the back of two of the best-selling kits in football — England and Manchester United.

So bye-bye Umbro?

It still has Manchester United and has been around for more than 60 years. Umbro points out that every time Brazil has won the World Cup, it has done so in Umbro kit. If it is to be an Umbro wearer winning this World Cup, England would be the hot favourite.

JASON NISSE

CRICKET

Pakistan primed to wrap up Test series

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAT SYMCOX's valiant efforts with the bat could not stop Pakistan taking a decisive grip on the third and final Test against South Africa in Faisalabad yesterday. Pakistan were chasing a modest 146 runs for victory and were four without loss in their second innings when bat light ended the third day's play at the Iqbal Stadium.

Symcox, the off spinner, who made an obstinate 81 in the first innings, was in an equally combative mood in the second as he made 55, helped by Lance Klusener, who hit 38 in a total of 214, but the spin of Mushtaq Ahmed, four for 57, and Saqlain Mushtaq, three for 36, gave Pakistan the upper hand. As long as bad weather does not intervene again, the hosts should wrap up the three-match series today. The first two Tests ended in draws.

South Africa, resuming on 21 for two, lost Brian McMillan and Daryll Cullinan in quick succession to the leg spin of Mushtaq, Hansie Cronje, the captain, and Symcox batted purposefully for more than an hour and put on 43 for the fifth wicket, with the latter completing his second fifty of the match with seven fours and a six, before falling to Saqlain, the off spinner.

Waqar Younis struck with

successive balls as first Cronje was caught by Azhar Mahmood at square leg for 21 and then Dave Richardson, the wicketkeeper, fell leg-before. Klusener avoided the hat-trick before striking two sixes and three fours in his 26-ball innings, but his dismissal, leg-before to Saqlain, on the stroke of tea heralded the end of the South African resistance.

Allan Donald was bowled for eight and, when Paul Adams was last man out, Shaun Pollock was left undefeated on 21. Aamir Sohail was on nought and Ali Naqvi four when play finished for the day.

New Zealand collapsed to their second consecutive defeat on their tour of Australia yesterday, losing a limited-overs match to Queensland in Cairns. The tourists were dismissed for 125 in reply to the home side's 252 for eight from their 50 overs. New Zealand's loss came just 24 hours after they had been beaten by an innings and 127 runs in a four-day match against Queensland.

When asked to describe his team's performance, Stephen Fleming, the New Zealand captain, said it was "pathetic" and predicted that his team would struggle in the Test series that starts in Brisbane on November 7.

Scoreboard, page 38

ICE HOCKEY

Nienhuis pounces to keep Panthers on top

THE Superleague continues to provide capacity crowds with closely-fought games. Both Saunders' fixtures ended in a 2-1 win for the home side. Ayr Scottish Eagles over Basingstoke Bison and Nottingham Panthers over Newcastle Cobras.

Ayr got off to a quick start, with Mark Woolf finishing off a three-way play with Mark Montanari and Dino Bauba in the second minute. Just under three minutes later, Karri Bente scored the second and the crowd must have thought that they were in for a high-scoring contest, particularly as it was only another ten seconds, before Jamie Black pulled one back for the Bison.

That, however, was the end of scoring, with the two goalkeepers, Rob Dopsin and Sonny Mignacca, excelling.

It took a little longer for the goals to come in Nottingham, where Jamie Leach gave the Panthers the lead after 16 minutes. Brett Stewart equalised before Craig Nienhuis restored Nottingham's lead.

The Panthers retain top spot on eight points, with the Eagles a point behind but with a game in hand.

In the semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Plate, Telford Tigers beat Peterborough Pirates 3-4 and Paisley Pirates overcame Slough Jets 6-4 in their first-leg games.

Results, page 38

CYCLING

Dangerfield triumphs again in record time

STUART DANGERFIELD had ample reward yesterday for ignoring earlier disappointments this season with his fifth national hill climb championship, the past three of which have been consecutive (Peter Bryan writes).

At times, he had wondered whether he was the forgotten man of British cycling when he failed to gain selection for the world time-trial championship alongside Chris Boardman or was named for other big international events, only to be told that they were cancelled.

Yesterday, as the curtain came down on the 1997 time-trial programme on the 1,700-metre ascent of Rowley Bar, Derbyshire, Dangerfield set a

new hill record of 5min 12.84sec on a climb that varied in gradient between 1:8 and 1:5.

He sprinted in, last man to start of the 120 entry, to beat Jim Henderson, an engineering post graduate at Oxford, who had until then recorded the best time of 5min 19.29sec. Henderson was reckoned to have established a 2sec advantage over Dangerfield at the halfway point.

The champion said: "I had planned to take the first section riding within myself and then go flat out on the tougher approach to the finish. It worked."

On Saturday, Henderson won the British Universities hill climb title near Baslow.



Funny, it doesn't look like the new Audi A4.

Looks however, can be deceptive.

For more information on the new, improved A4 or the rest of the Audi range call 0345 899 777.

Audi Audi

One wave and I became a surfer girl

It took only a single session on a board to turn city dweller Marianne Curphey into a surfing addict

The tourists may have left the beaches, but for surfers the season is just starting. The sea is warm after long days of sunshine, the weather is still mild, and from time to time the weather systems bring perfect days of big waves, still winds and sunshine.

Between now and Christmas, thousands of hardcore surfers will be thronging to the coast to make the most of the weather before the January storms set in.

Three years ago I learnt to surf, before and in an ill-fitting wetsuit, on a windswept Pembrokeshire beach. Even in July the water was bitterly cold, and after a two-hour lesson I covered in the back of my instructor's van, wearing every item of clothing I could muster and shivering uncontrollably. But the yearning had begun, and shows no sign of abating.

Surfing is utterly pointless and completely addictive. Every great ride leaves you fired with enthusiasm for the next one. Only the most disciplined of surfers can leave the sea on a perfect big-wave day with enough energy to run back up the beach. On good days, most stay out as long as they have the strength to do so. This is also a symptom of the unpredictability of British waves. Really perfect days, with a light offshore wind, 5ft swell and the sun in the sky are relatively rare. Much time is wasted moaning about on cliff-tops willing the waves to pick up or waiting for the tide to turn. Patience is important.

Though it is physically demanding and fiercely difficult to master, the basics of wave riding can be learnt in a

SPORT FOR ALL

HOW TO START

SURFERS and boogie boarders can contact the British Surfing Association, in Penzance (01736 360250). The BSA has courses for all ages and abilities. There are also independent surf schools throughout the UK, some of which run BSA-approved courses.

Summer wetsuits start at £60, winter ones cost £200-plus. Second-hand boards sell for £150 or less, boogie boards range from £10 to £600.

week. Most courses teach you how to jump from lying on your belly to standing on the board while you are still on the beach. After the humiliation of simulating paddling while your board is wedged into the sand, you are then let loose in the white water to try to do the same while the board is moving. Surf schools use large foam "beginners" boards, which are attached to your ankles with a leash so you can retrieve them.

This is a sound introduction to the years of punishment the

sea will mete out. Even experienced surfers find the sea can be an unpredictable and capricious playground. Mistiming a wave, particularly a large one, and pitching forward leads to a battering by the lip of a wave and urine being forced into your ears and nose. Later, you learn how to paddle out through walls of white broken waves to arrive gasping beyond the surf to the "green" unbroken waves.

"Just one more wave and I'll call it a day," I whisper as a wall of water rises behind me and I paddle furiously.

But catching a wave and standing up is just the beginning. Each wave is different. Storms change the contours of the sandbars along the beach and the subsequent point at which waves will break. Tides and the water's depth affect the quality of reef breaks. Some waves suck the reef dry, so that the sea bed is covered by just a few feet of water. There are only a few such reef breaks in Britain, but plenty in the Canary Islands, a popular winter surfing spot.

There are leashes available with quick-release pins so that you can free yourself if you are hurled on to the reef and your leash becomes wedged in crevices or coral.

The skill of surfing lies in anticipating the rhythm, speed and angle at which the lip of the wave will curl — a skill that cannot be taught.

Experienced surfers develop a sixth sense that enables them to predict waves. For this reason, the best surfers have the pick of the waves. If you share a beach with locals who know how the wave will shift and change as the tide rises and falls, they will always be



Catch a wave and you're sitting on top of the world. The skill of surfing lies in anticipating the rhythm, speed and angle at which the lip of the wave will curl

paddling towards the horizon just as the biggest set of the day approaches.

Wave etiquette dictates that the surfer who is nearest the foaming curl of the wave has right of way, and other surfers must "kick out" of the wave to give way.

Though surfers pride themselves on being a mellow bunch, competing for the best waves causes friction. If a group of surfers who have paddled out together — all through the depths of winter and find their local break invaded

by summer tourists, this friction can, occasionally, lead to physical threats.

The sport is now so popular that most people have tried some form of wave-riding on a seaside holiday, whether it is stand-up surfing or the hugely popular body-boarding — done on small foam boogie boards that you ride on your belly. Some use pop-out boards, surfboards formed from moulded plastic; these are less responsive in the water than "custom" surfboards, which are formed

from a foam blank covered with fibreglass and can be individually shaped.

In summer, the sea around Devon and Cornwall turns into alphabet soup, awash with every possible form of wave-craft — and precious few of the users are aware of the unwritten rules of surfing. Even at this time of year on the north coasts of Devon and Cornwall, there are hundreds of surfers competing for waves at the weekends. Improved

wetsuit technology means that the real die-hards will continue to paddle out even in the most extreme conditions.

Crowding on Devon's most popular beach, Croyde Bay, is now so bad that the surfing magazine, *Curve*, recently devoted several pages to the problem. But some suggest that while crowding is irksome, the competitive spirit fosters higher standards. And although surfers sometimes snarl at one another, they reserve pure contempt for the summer novice surfers and

body boarders who tumble into their path just as they are riding the best wave of the day.

The hierarchy of wave-riding is clear-cut. At the top are locals so used to the water they appear to have developed gills. At the bottom are the hapless tourists who put their wetsuits on back to front, flounder in the impact zone, and from time to time have to be rescued by the lifeguards.

And somewhere in the middle is me: a city dweller obsessed with the sea and yearning for one more wave.

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THE TIMES

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BEAT BUSINESS STRESS IN ONE HOUR

CHANGING TIMES

Christopher Thomas introduces a special report on Pakistan and the golden opportunity for Nawaz Sharif to modernise the country

Fate of a nation hangs in the balance



Nawaz Sharif during Pakistan's election campaign

Pakistan has the strongest democratic Government in its 50-year history. The army is quiescent and the political opposition is ineffectual. The President's power to sack prime ministers has been removed and the unpopular Islamic right wing has rarely been less troublesome. Events have conspired to give Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, the greatest opportunity of any democratic leader — or indeed, dictator — to impose his will on this troubled Islamic state as it struggles on the edge of bankruptcy.

Mr Sharif is the businessman's politician, a rich industrialist who understands the needs of the Karachi commercial houses, the cotton mills, the garment makers — people who can determine the economic future of a nation brought to its knees by ethnic violence and, even more crippling, unchecked plunder by politicians. The Bhutto years were a catastrophe, enriching

the few and impoverishing the many, making a mockery of the young and fragile democracy. The reports of the Bhuttos' alleged wealth in Swiss bank accounts has added to the popular disgust that all but wiped out the Pakistan People's Party in this year's general election, proof that Benazir Bhutto has sunk from being the nation's heroine to its most discredited politician. She has not apologised nor admitted any wrong, and her increasingly bizarre outbursts on television have added to the impression that she is woefully out of touch with people who once loved her and are now bitter about the dreams she betrayed. Pictures of her emerging from Karachi central jail, her children holding her hands, are graphic images of a spectacular downfall from which it will be difficult, if not impossible, for her to recover. Asif Ali Zardari, her husband, is facing trial for alleged involvement in the murder of Murtaza Bhutto, Miss Bhutto's estranged younger

brother, shot in a gun battle with police in suspicious circumstances. There have been reports that the marriage is in trouble, but Mr Zardari has declared publicly that he is sure his wife will stand by him. She must know, however, that she can never recover politically while they remain together, such is his reputation. Mr Zardari has been in prison for nearly a year and, in his occasional comments to journalists when visiting court, he has said he expects to stay there as long as this Government is in power. That is a reasonable assumption. If his wife fails to return to office, he may be there a long time, because he has few political or business

friends after building a nefarious reputation while Minister of Investments in the last Government. There is no such department as investment ministry — it was a title that enabled him to become involved in many big financial transactions, earning him the title "Mr Ten Per Cent". Miss Bhutto has been selling Pakistanis, who are among the world's poorest people, that she is rich but not a billionaire. She insisted that \$13.6 million (\$8.5 million) in frozen Swiss accounts did not belong to her and that she intended suing the Pakistan Government "when all this is over". The Swiss authorities told the story differently, announce-

ing that they had blocked 17 accounts held by Miss Bhutto, her husband, and her mother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto. The accounts, suspected to be the front companies of the Bhuttos, have also been blocked. Miss Bhutto says her lawyers told her: if the accounts held billions of dollars, they were not hers either. "But anyway, it's not the question of accounts. Everybody has accounts. The question is, did I commit any crime? I did not commit any crime." The arguments are driving her further to the edge of political credibility, and leaving her ever weaker as an opposition force. Mr Sharif, who has a two-thirds parliamentary majority, hardly needs look over his shoulder to see what the Opposition is up to, because it is up to little. He is too strong, the Opposition is too weak. His administration has not yet earned an unduly bad reputation for corruption, and certainly its record to date is infinitely better than that of its predecessor. Miss Bhutto has not been charged with any offences in connection with the Swiss accounts so far, although there has been talk of seeking to ban her from contesting future elections on the ground that she is believed to be corrupt. She has implicitly admitted that there are Swiss accounts belonging to her.

She says: "The reason people who are in politics want to have safe accounts is because they are not safe in their own country." She denies that any money in them came from kickbacks on contracts. "The money was not illegal," she insists. The affair is liable to drag on for years, further eroding the Bhuttos' standing. The Daughter of the East, as she calls herself, is no longer the darling of Washington nor of the people, most of whom feel she betrayed them; their country and their hopes.



Change is slow but sure as the Government moves to put the economy back on track after a long slump

REVIVING Pakistan's economy, which has been hit by a long recession, is the top priority of the Government of Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister. Zahid Hussain writes. Mr Sharif, a member of one of the country's biggest business families, has moved fast to stem economic slide. But the challenge seems to be enormous as Pakistan faces a serious resource crunch and a looming foreign debt crisis. Soon after returning to power, the Government announced a series of economic and tax reforms to boost the economy. It drastically cut taxes, reduced import tariffs to 40 per cent and provided incentives to exporters. The return of political stability and Mr Sharif's liberal economic policies restored the confidence of businessmen and investors. The economy has started to pick up, but the pace is slow. Finance ministry

Tough decisions on the road to recovery

officials believe it will take some time for the impact of the reforms to become apparent. The Government expects more than 5 per cent GDP growth rate in this financial year after four years of low economic growth. The main thrust of the Government's economic policy is to boost the large-scale manufacturing sector, which has remained stagnant for the past few years. The new reform package has improved the climate for both domestic and foreign investments. Government officials hope that investment will further accelerate with

the development of the infrastructure and communication facilities. The completion of the Lahore-Islamabad motorway, costing £400 million, will also give impetus to industrial investment in Punjab. Developing a road network is high on the Government's agenda and is likely to boost agriculture. It has also moved to reform the state-owned banking sector, which has been on the verge of collapse because of inefficiency, huge debt and overstaffing. In addition, it has moved to cut losses by laying-off employees in the

banking sector. Thousands of bank workers have been laid off under a golden handshake scheme. The measure is likely to increase efficiency of the banks and financial institutions and improve profitability. The Government also plans to privatise state-owned banks in the next few years. The economic reforms have had a positive impact on foreign investment. Although foreign direct investment is still slow in coming, the portfolio foreign fund has shown a significant increase in the past few months. The influx of foreign funds

has helped the stock market to rise by almost 400 points. Low-priced stock has proved particularly attractive to foreign investors, who have diverted their funds from South-East Asia. Pakistani officials hope that further improvement in the economy and the latest agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will encourage more investment. Under the Extended Structural Adjustment Fund (ESAF), Pakistan will receive \$1.6 billion (£1 billion) from the IMF. This will help to improve its balance of payments, which has remained under pressure because of low growth in exports and a high import bill. The Government also plans to reform the taxation system in a bid to curb corruption and tax evasion, but it faces stiff opposition from diehard bureaucrats.



The Government aims to boost the manufacturing sector, such as textiles

Privatisation is the buzz

Despite seven changes of government in seven years, the privatisation programme in Pakistan has been uninterrupted since 1990. Political instability last year slowed down the divestment of the state-owned enterprises but things seem to be moving once again. Pakistan has deregulated its economy at a greater pace than have other South Asian countries. There is agreement among the big political parties on the privatisation programme, and since economic liberalisation began seven years ago, more than 100 state-owned enterprises and commercial banks have been privatised. So far, Pakistan has privatised cement factories, steel mills, vegetable oil mills, fertiliser factories, electric power generation plants and two state-owned commercial banks. Most of these were nationalised in the mid-Seventies by the socialist Government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and many ran up losses. Banks and financial institutions became the source of government patronage for successive governments and, eventually, insolvent. The state banking

Zahid Hussain reports on the selling of power companies and other enterprises

system, carrying more than £2 billion in bad loans, was on the verge of collapse. The denationalisation of these institutions was necessary not only to cut government losses, but also to increase their efficiency. Apart from the selling of industrial enterprises, Pakistan has also divested 10 per cent of the shares of Pakistan Telecommunications, the biggest enterprise in the state sector. After the sale of small enterprises, Pakistan last year moved towards the privatisation of big companies when it sold off the 1,300-megawatt Kot Addu power generation plant in Punjab to the British company, National Power. The Kot Addu plant is one of the largest and most modern in the country. Its privatisation has opened the way for disinvestment from other power companies and the electric distribution system. Because of its liberal policy, Pakistan has already attracted huge investment in power generation. Several units with a combined generation capacity of more than 3,000MW have either already begun to operate or are about to be completed. Hub Power near Karachi, the biggest power generation plant in the private sector in Asia, is also managed by British National Power. The Government plans next to withdraw its investment from other enterprises run by the state-controlled Water and Power Development Authority. The next in line is the 600MW Jamshoro power plant. Preliminary work has also been done for the privatisation of electrical power supply corporations in some major cities such as Karachi, Faisalabad and some other cities of Punjab province.

The privatisation of Karachi Electric Supply corporation is expected to be completed by next year. Pakistan has also involved foreign private investment in power transmission projects. One such project is the 1,400km, 500kW transmission line across the country. The project has, however, been delayed because of political reasons. Pakistani officials believe that the privatisation of electrical supply would also help reduce the huge losses in transmission. The privatisation programme and potential foreign investment has, however, been affected by a lack of clarity and often-changing policies, which also created uncertainty about foreign investment. The new Government plans to put at least two leading banks and the Pakistan Telecommunications Corporation up for sale, as well as several other state-owned enterprises within the next few years. Government officials hope that within five years all the financial institutions will be privatised.

Shares will soon be sold in two of the biggest banks

Caught up in a chain reaction

The Kentucky Fried Chicken diner is the place to be seen in Lahore

ECONOMIC liberalisation has opened Pakistan to the world's biggest fast-food chains. First to arrive was Pizza Hut, which became an instant hit among the entertainment-starved people of Karachi. Zahid Hussain writes. Within a couple of years the chain had established three outlets in Pakistan's commercial capital, and extended its business to Lahore. But the arrival of yet another US chain, a branch of Kentucky Fried Chicken, early this year sent people crazy. In just four months KFC has opened four outlets in the city, and these have become popular not only with teenagers, but also with families. The company plans to set up 30 more outlets in Karachi and in the north of the country. Pizza Hut has already become a big status symbol. Locals could not face their peers if they had not been to the pizza place on the ground floor of the city's most prestigious building, located in posh Clifton. The restaurant is always teeming, with families sitting in the foyer and groups of young people hanging around outside, waiting for somewhere to sit. For most people, it is more than just eating out, it is a leisure

experience. This is just the beginning, for the food business is like an untapped goldmine. McDonald's, which is expected to open its first outlet in the country early next year, is already a household name among Pakistanis. The chain reportedly plans to open more than 50 branches in Karachi and Lahore. All these fast food chains are in a race to make millions. Despite the fact that the food in these places costs the same as it does in the US — and when one converts dollars into Pakistani rupees, the food becomes very expensive indeed — there is never a slack period. There are no signs that the people of this huge city are going to be deterred by the costs. It is almost as if they consider eating out their reward for having been deprived of life's little pleasures for so long. Interestingly, the recent ban on the traditional large wedding feasts — imposed by the new Government as part of its austerity drive — has also brought more business to the chains. People pour out of the marriage ceremony and head for the fast food places — no one wants to go home to eat after having got all dressed up.

Young middle-class Pakistanis demand Western fast food



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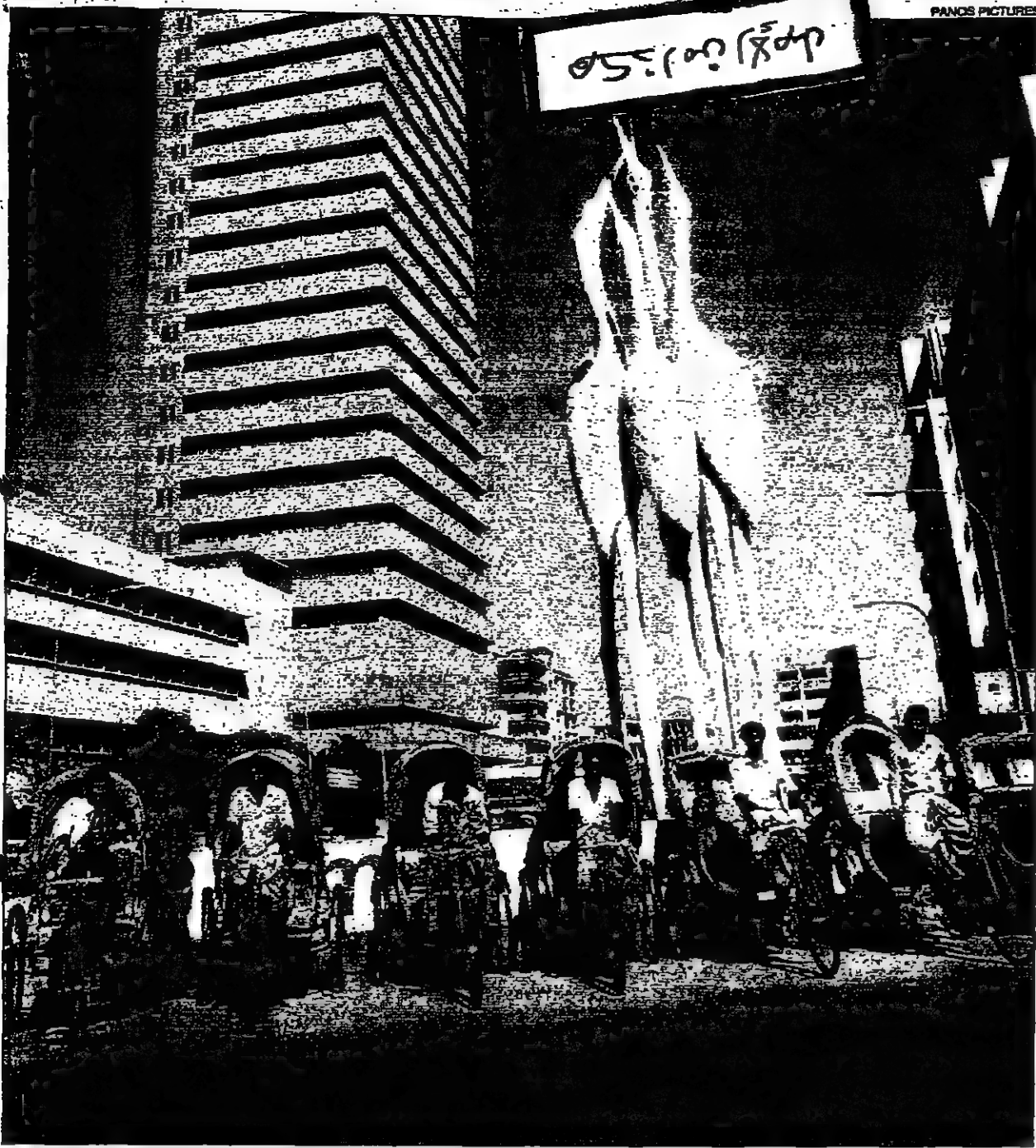
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date to Wall



Modern Dhaka: the capital is bustling as skyscraper apartments rise from the rubble of demolished shanties

Democracy brings a new confidence

Ahmed Fazl presents a special report on a country overcoming the huge problems of its birth

Bangladesh is in the midst of a rapid transformation. Politics is dominated by a Western-style parliamentary democracy, recurrent bumper harvests have cut perennial food shortages and there is a renewal of confidence in the economy among foreign and domestic investors.

Barely 16 months after a general election that took Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Prime Minister, and her secular Awami League to power, political calm reigns in this once-volatile country.

The election brought to an end two years of bitter political strife and paved the way for reforms that restored peace.

Today the skyline of Dhaka, the bustling capital of more than a million people, is changing as high-rise apartments stand on the rubble of demolished shanties. Sleek reconditioned Japanese cars clog the main streets, previously the haunts of political pickets and urchins, often locked in running battles with police.

New shopping malls are opening every month to cater to the needs of an emerging middle class — consumers who watch satellite television and send their children to English kindergartens.

Nonetheless, almost 40 per cent of Bangladesh's 120 million people live at subsistence level and only a third of the population are literate.

Sheikh Hasina, soon after assuming office, introduced reforms to strengthen the parliamentary system, guarantee future elections and

ensure respect for human rights.

Though her offer of a government of "national consensus" after last year's election was spurned by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, two remaining groups in parliament, including the Jatiyo Party of H. M. Ershad, the former President, joined the administration.

The appointment of an eminent non-party figure as the constitutional President, after almost 25 years of military dictatorship and one-man rule, has created public trust in politicians.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, a retired Supreme Court Chief Justice, has limited powers in Bangladesh's political system but commands great moral authority for his social standing and his long career in the judiciary.

Analysts say that by sacrificing the highest constitutional office to an outsider, Sheikh Hasina and the Awami League were able to establish

their credentials in forging national unity by healing past wounds.

Bangladesh emerged as a fully independent country on December 16, 1971, a quarter of a century after the 1947 partition of the sub-continent. East Bengal, having spent 25 years

as the poorer, eastern wing of a Pakistan split geographically in two by India, and populated by a majority of Muslim Bengalis, had found that the common religion was unable to cover linguistic, cultural, and ethnic differences

with the Urdu-speaking West Pakistanis. Three million civilians died in the nine-month war of secession led by the country's founding father and first President, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. But hardly three years later, Sheikh Mujibur was killed by a group of radical Muslim Army officers, who overthrew his secular Government.

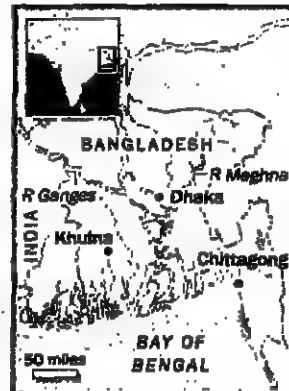
Sheikh Hasina, who is 50, was not present on August 15, 1975, when Mujibur and 16 relatives were gunned down. The bloodbath created divisions between those who wanted to establish a secular democratic society and supporters of a theocratic state. Mujibur's death led to further political assassinations and martial law. The return to power of the Awami League and Mujibur's daughter, 21 years later, is being seen as a restoration of public faith in non-communal politics, parliamentary democracy and a free economy.

The stipulation that a non-partisan caretaker government will be installed before future elections and the introduction of measures to separate the judiciary from the executive control of the Government, are other political reforms that reflect the new leadership's commitment to democratic values.

Recent endorsement of Bangladesh's economic reforms programme by the World Bank, which has committed more than \$500 million annually to support a strong macro-economy and structural programme, has further enhanced investor confidence.

The bank estimates that Bangladesh will continue to push GDP growth rates steadily to almost 6 per cent annually. Crop production is likely to contribute at least a quarter of the growth.

As economic activities become more competitive, political controversies appeal less to people in the streets and recent strike calls by opposition groups have failed to evoke popular response.



A cup of the finest tea spiced with intrigue

Dhaka likes its political and cultural life well-brewed, writes Ahmed Fazl

Although the streets of Dhaka are like those in any bustling city in a developing country — crowded, noisy and smoky — there is one striking feature of this metropolis which puts it in a different class.

The quantity of teashops here rivals any city in the world. They range from the turn-of-the-century restaurants in the stately old part of the capital dispensing the hot drink with locally baked crispy *bakarkhanis* and the pavement stalls where clients sit on wooden benches around the tea wallah and his pots of boiling water.

Since the Bengalis were introduced to tea by the British planters more than a century ago teashops have figured in

political upheavals, social revolutions, art and literature. The vast population is apparently hooked on the drink, a national obsession which has encouraged an industry employing an estimated half a million people.

The Bengalis like their tea brewed with the cream of milk and political gossip. They also like to trade rumours and mores. So teashops have created both firebrand politicians and poets.

Leaning over a scarred wooden table in Arazoo teashop off the sandstone Lalbagh district, Abdul Karim squints over a cigarette and his steaming cup of tea. A greying political activist and connoisseur of poetry, cricket and other national obsessions, he

looks drowned in nostalgia as he recites a couplet by the Indian poet Tagore with reverence worthy of a hymn.

Madhu's Canteen, located on the Dhaka University campus, is the best known of contemporary teashops. For more than four decades it has been the popular haunt of student revolutionaries, budding politicians and struggling writers.

Many of Bangladesh's present-day political leaders and top professionals have sipped tea with leftist intellectuals, actors and assorted revolutionaries. Some still like to visit the venerable teashop. But student clients today are engrossed in career talk.

A Bangladeshi sociologist has described the institution of

the teashop as a frontier zone between public and private life. In growing urban congestion the teashops provide the spaces for reflection and debate over the problems of life.

"Very few cities have developed the almost fanatic obsession for teashops," says Kabir Chowdhury, a local newspaper columnist. For many Dhaka residents living in cramped flats the teashops provide the illusion of socialising.

But times change. "I have lost many regular clients to the slick new fast-food pizzerias next door," said Rustom Ali, a teashop owner on the once elegant Rankin Street. "But those who like a good cup of tea and friendship are still sticking with me."



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has led modernisation

Links forged long ago

FROM the beginning of her term of office, Sheikh Wajid Hasina, the Prime Minister, has acted to build closer ties with the West.

This is especially true in the case of Britain. In view of the historical links between the two countries — the Dhaka Government is the third-largest recipient of British official development assistance.

When Sheikh Hasina met Tony Blair in Edinburgh over the weekend, the two cemented the warm relations established when John Major visited Bangladesh early this year. The presence of nearly half a million Bangladeshis in the United Kingdom has also strengthened cultural and business ties between the two countries.

British companies have traditionally operated in Bangladesh, but several UK firms joining in the search for oil and gas in that nation's offshore islands have put Anglo-



Major and Sheikh Hasina

Bangladeshi investment ties on a higher plane. Bangladesh is self-sufficient in natural gas, with 50 trillion cubic feet of reserves.

The search for new gas fields continues unabated. Recent discoveries on the southern island of Bholia has boosted reserves by ten per cent. Oil prospecting in the Bay of Bengal is under way, with plans to develop the coal deposits in the north.



The serenity of this view of Chittagong fishing boats on the River Ganges symbolises the prospects for peace

New hope as disputes end

Two treaties should end years of often-deadly political rows

SOON after assuming office, the Awami League initiated contacts with neighbouring states, including India, led to the signing of an historic treaty on sharing the waters of the Ganges.

The river, which originates in the Himalayan foothills, sustains the lush cropland of India and Bangladesh. The treaty, a diplomatic triumph, will, it is hoped, end 30 years of dispute. India and Bangladesh share 53 other rivers but the Ganges has always been the main irritant blocking the development of bilateral ties.

Though the political rivals of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Prime Minister, called the

treaty a "sell-out" there has been spontaneous international support for the Government for removing an old obstacle in the path of positive regional ties.

After the years of bickering over who should get how much of the water, the treaty has cleared the way for Dhaka to seek international finance to build a barrage in the Ganges downstream in Bangladesh for storage of the extra water of the rainy season to irrigate farmlands

during the dry months. Sheikh Hasina also decided early that her Government must reach an agreement with the *Shanti Bahini* (Peace Force) minority campaigning for a homeland in the Chittagong Hill Tracts bordering eastern India and Burma. After more than five meetings spread over the years, the Government and the tribal leaders are close to an accord. The hostility has claimed the lives of more than 8,000 tribal people,

non-tribal settlers, Chakma guerrillas and government troops.

The Government agreed to give the hills the maximum autonomy permitted by the Constitution, allowing the local administration to be run by elected tribal leaders, preserving the land rights of the minority people and restricting Bengali settlements from the plains. For this, the Government has cracked commitments to end the hostilities, which have engaged more than 10,000 regular soldiers and paramilitary troops. Officials in Dhaka say that the peace treaty is likely to be signed next month.

The fruit of the loom

Ahmed Fazl looks at the booming garment industry

At the crack of dawn, lights are switched on in the myriad garment factories dotting the sprawling metropolis of Dhaka as tens of thousands of young women descend on the streets to join the early morning shift.

These women, wearing colourful saris and carrying lunchboxes, constitute Bangladesh's new workforce, changing the economic and social face of the Muslim-majority country.

The garment industry, almost totally geared for exporting to Western markets, is booming. Growing at a rate of more than 20 per cent a year, the industry is set to export ready-made wear worth \$3 billion annually by the turn of the century. More than a million people, 80 per cent of them women, work in 2,500 or so factories, most of them in Dhaka and the southern port city of Chittagong.

Starting virtually from scratch in the late 1970s, the industry has spawned the

growth of scores of spinning, weaving and dyeing mills to serve the demands of garment manufacturers. Every fifth shirt worn in the European Union has probably been made in Bangladesh.

The country is on the threshold of a textile revolution, with composite factories equipped with modern machinery turning out fabrics for the export market.

Bangladesh has been known as the land of weavers. Across the bank of the Sitakhyia River near Dhaka, villagers in the 16th century used to spin the gossamer yarn that had made the *mulim*. Seventy thousand weavers still work the looms, turning out products that appeal to local and foreign buyers. The present generation of manufacturers wants to recreate the country's glorious textile heritage.

The rapid growth of the garment industry has led to a radical change in society's attitudes. Taboos against women

seeking jobs outside the home have broken down. Women have asserted their rights and, as earning members in their families, have won new status. Observers see this as a peaceful social revolt against religious extremism.

The textile boom has attracted companies from South Korea, Japan, Thailand and China to the country's successful export-processing zones. The Government has put in place a concerted programme to encourage foreign investment, including an incentive package considered among the most attractive in the region. Foreign companies invested more than \$1 billion last year.

Macroeconomic stability has been achieved, with inflation running at around 3 per cent, by capping wasteful public spending. Analysts are worried, however, that the implementation of higher salaries for civil servants from July could increase inflationary pressure.

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RESULTS AND
STATISTICS

TODAY

Interim: Gao Interactive, Old English Pub Co, S&P Industries. Final: UFF Group. Economic statistics: CSI survey of small and medium enterprises.

TOMORROW

Interim: Hix Entertainment, Skandia Insurance (nine months), Soco Int'l, Toys & Co, West 175 Enterprises. Final: Selway, My Holdings, Overseas Investment Trust.

WEDNESDAY

Interim: BAT Industries, Body Shop Int'l, Pilkington, J Salway, Finales: Morgan Grenfell Equity, Economic statistics: UK mortgage repossession (Q3), Alan Greenspan testimony to US Congress.

THURSDAY

Interim: BT (Q2), Anglian Water, Danks Business, Niche (Q3), Scottish Mortgage & Trust, Telewest, Canal (Q3), Tullow Oil. Final: AG Holdings, Air London Int'l, Ashanti Goldfields (Q3), Pressac. Economic statistics: US weekly jobless claims, US September new home sales.

FRIDAY

Interim: Cairn Group, Building Soc, Meltex Group. Economic statistics: BBA end-September monthly mortgage lending.

SUNDAY TIMES

The Sunday Times: Bay Memory Corp, Centrica, Brent Luer, national, BW, Watmog, Sunday Telegraph, Bay Cable & Wireless, SFI, Allied Leisure, Charlton Athletic, The Electronics Boutique, The Observer, Bay Schroders, Hapworth, BICC, Sell British Energy, Avis Europe, BA, Hapworth, Sunday: Bay Care UK, Sell Guardian Royal Exchange, The Mail on Sunday: Bay Chloride, Swallowfield.

Charges cut into BT's first-half £1.5bn

BRITISH TELECOM: There will be no signs of jet-lag, hopefully, when Sir Iain Vallance and Sir Peter Bonfield unveil half-year results on Thursday. The figures were scheduled for November 13, but were hastily brought forward. BT is unlikely to give much away about the expected three-way link-up with GTE and MCI in America, despite the best efforts of brokers.

On the face of it the figures are unlikely to impress the City. Alan Lyons at ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, expects pre-tax profits for the second quarter to come in at £630 million, compared with £730 million for the corresponding period. It stretches the total for the first six months to £1.51 billion.

But the figure will be struck before exceptional £120 million relating to the payment of a special dividend to employees. Further write-offs will include £45 million for the development of Celine's new billing system and £75 million of charges relating to the original bid for MCI.

Brokers are also likely to question the low redundancy charge. In the first quarter of last year the charge was £52 million, and in the second quarter £183 million. The figure this time is likely to be much lower, though £250 million has been budgeted for the year as a whole.

On the trading front the pressure of lower tariff charges will continue to take its toll, although this may be offset by a further 8 per cent rise in traffic growth.

group's financial services arm with Zurich. BAT will contribute Eagle Star, Allied Dunbar and America's Farmers Insurance to create one of the biggest insurance and asset management companies in the world with a price tag of around £25 billion. BAT's tobacco businesses will have a separate listing.

These results are unlikely to impress, with most brokers looking for a downturn in profits after disappointing performances in both the US and Asia-Pacific rim.

Pre-tax profits are expected to come in at £1.8 billion, down 7 per cent on the £1.97 billion achieved during the same period last time. Earnings are expected to be down from 38.5p to 35.5p.

Financial services has made steady progress, in the absence of weather-related claims.

The whole subject of tobacco litigation drags on and it seems unlikely that any settlement will be achieved in the near future.

THE BODY SHOP: Any improvement in sales is likely to come from the group's aggressive store opening programme rather than organic growth. Interim figures on Wednesday should show pre-tax profits up from £11.8 million to £12.8 million, a rise of 9 per cent. Earnings should be up 25 per cent from 3.6p to 4.5p. Brokers are looking for the payout to rise to 2p from 1.5p.

J SAINSBURY: The annual meeting indicated a rise in like-for-like sales 4.2 per cent during the first 16 weeks of the first half, while there were signs of growing food inflation.



Investors hope for a clear US line from BT's Sir Iain Vallance and Sir Peter Bonfield.

So the market is looking to see the group back on the growth track after last year's first ever profits setback. NatWest Markets forecasts an increase of around 4 per cent from £387 million to £402

million on Wednesday, with earnings 6 per cent higher at 14.8p a share. The broker expects Sainsbury to have maintained sales growth, although rising inflation will have eroded volume levels.

Volume growth for the year is likely to be between 1 per cent and 2 per cent, with the help of the British Airways cheap flights promotion covering the second half. Gross margins are likely to

have been maintained. Like-for-like sales at Homebase will be up 8.5 per cent, while operating losses at Texas should be down. Industrial disputes in the US are likely to result in a lower than expected contribution. The payout should grow around 6 per cent to 3.7p.

ANGLIAN WATER: Anglian Water kicks off the interim dividend season for the water companies on Thursday, with interest focused on the dividend payment, which will set the target level for the rest of the sector. There will also be interest in how the group accounts for the windfall tax.

Anglian's pre-tax profits look set to grow from £132.7 million to £145 million, with a three-month contribution from Hartlepool Water. Earnings are expected to show a small decline from 46.7p to 45.3p. The payout will almost certainly be another generous one pitched at around 11.5p, up 13 per cent from 10.2p.

Water supplies are giving cause for concern, with stocks already at their lowest autumn levels ever.

PILKINGTON: Half-year figures, due Wednesday, are likely to be overshadowed by the review carried out by Paolo Scaroni, the new chief executive. Pre-tax profits will fall about £20 million to £62 million. But the cost of shedding 1,000 jobs and the closure of a major plant in Germany will result in restructuring charges of between £100 million and £120 million. Earnings will decline to 2.7p a share from 4p. The one bright spot remains the US autoglass division. The dividend is likely to be pegged at 1.75p.

ECONOMIC
OUTLOOK

FINANCIAL markets will be looking over their collective shoulders for any hint of direction. In a week light on UK statistics, the main influences should be knocking knees and talking heads.

Today Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, aims to clarify the UK position on the euro in the Commons. He seems most unlikely to add certainty to the UK's intentions in 2001-02, but it cannot be entirely ruled out. The more sceptical he sounds on entry, the more sterling should strengthen.

On Tuesday six German institutes have their chance to soothe or frighten with a joint autumn economic report. There may be more optimism this time on meeting Maastricht tests, but they are not likely to want the Bundesbank to put up interest rates again in a hurry.

On Wednesday Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, testifies to Congress. He is sensitive to the negative impact of any Wall Street crash and will not want to rock the boat. Optimists will hope for hints that the Hong Kong affair has put off any need for higher interest rates.

A simpler US indicator is the advance estimate of third-quarter output on Friday. Standard & Poor's expects a further slowing to annual GDP growth of 2.8 per cent, but others look for 3 per cent.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 36

WHIPSAW

(b) Something that is disadvantageous in two ways. Originally and chiefly in the US. A metaphor from the frame-saw with a narrow blade, used especially for curved work. "The whipsaw of paying high prices for what they bought and being forced to receive low prices for what they sold."

SOVKHOZ

(c) In the former Soviet Union, a state-owned farm. A portmanteau word from *soviet* (Soviet) and *khosy* (farm). "The collective farms are not to be confused with the State farms or sovkhozes, which are owned by the State and worked by government employees."

VISGY

(a) Also vispie. West country dialect for biggy. An agricultural implement, in shape between a mattock and a hammer, for beating down hedger. "The day before Sunday, he could not due to risk outraging public opinion by carrying shovel or visgy through the open streets."

ZOHAR

(b) The major text of Jewish Cabalism, in the form of an allegorical interpretation of the Pentateuch. Literally the Hebrew for "light, splendour". "Although they derived their inspiration from the same source—Zohar and Kabbala—Ashkenazi and Sephardi mysticism inevitably took different directions."

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Amsterdam brokerage arrests

The Dutch arm of James Capel, HSBC's stockbroking business, is at the centre of an investigation into suspected money laundering. Four brokerages in Amsterdam, including Van Meer, James Capel, were searched by Dutch justice officials late on Friday after a six-month probe that extended to Belgium, Switzerland and the Dutch tax haven Curacao.

Three people were arrested on suspicion of being involved with insider trading, bribery, receiving, fraud, forgery and tax violations, and a fourth person is being sought.

Jersey cream

Jersey's finance industry generated a profit of £782 million last year, accounting for half of the island's income tax yield. The 75 banks in the capital, St Helier, showed an overall profits increase of 10 per cent, producing £150,140 profit per employee (up from £141,890 in 1995). Profits from fund management rose by 24.9 per cent. Accountants' profits rose by 13.3 per cent, while the increase for trust and company administrators was 9.5 per cent.

PO faced

The Communications Workers' Union will lobby managers on the future of the Post Office today, as the Department of Trade and Industry is poised to publish a review which could allow a role for the private sector. Derek Hodgson, acting joint general secretary, said: "I sincerely hope that Ian McCartney's review lets us get talk of privatisation out of the way and gives us the chance to work with management in a business unfettered by unnecessary restraints and outside influences."

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Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water! After Thursday's plunge, share prices rallied on Friday before suffering another reverse in London, albeit a more gentle one.

In the 1930s, Maynard Keynes had a lot to say about such events. Market prices, he said, were the outcome of an interaction between the opposing emotions of fear and greed. For most of the 1990s, greed has been in the ascendant. After last week, fear may make a comeback.

The idea that such raw emotions can have any relevance to today's hyper-sophisticated markets seems quaint. After all, now information is flashed instantly across myriad computer screens, and financial instruments are hedged, swamped, arbitrated, bundled and unbundled—whatever you like. And the people doing this are a far cry from the bowler-hatted, broily brigade of yesterday. They are sharp and quickwitted, more likely to have a PhD in nuclear physics than a silver spoon.

It is easy to take comfort from the thought that what drives financial markets is the higher mathematics of the so-called rocket scientists, rather than the emotions of Keynes's day. But that is just the trouble. What the rocket scientists do is to make the markets more perfect at handling information and dealing with risk. In a hundred little ways they have improved the efficiency of the financial system and thereby provided a service to its users.

Problems will arise when the greed turns to fear



including the companies that employ us, grant us mortgages or pay our pensions.

Yet for all their smoothing and risk re-allocation, even they cannot overcome the really big problem that besets financial markets—the sheer impossibility of knowing the future. Should we be surprised? This is not so much to do with the peculiarities of financial markets as with the essence of the human condition. And that does not change—rocket science or no.

What is the appropriate level of the stock market today? There are several ways of trying to come up with an answer, but in their different ways what they do is to codify the unknowable. That is why emotions still play their part.

When confidence is high, ultra-bullish interpretations are believed. They are not believed blindly, without reason. On the contrary, all sorts of reasons are adduced. But once confidence has been shattered, these reasons look like so many losing betting tickets torn up after a race.

The most radical reason for believing that the current level of the stock market is sustainable is

the argument that the concept of value has next to nothing to do with it. What counts is the sheer weight of funds. In much of the developed West, but especially in the United States, there is a flood of money for the market as people push savings into assets to provide for their old age. Supposedly, this implies a structural shift in the demand for equities, which will drive up share prices, whatever the value indicators say.

I find this argument unpersuasive. The weight of savings is one thing, but the instruments into which they flow are quite another. Surely this lesson should have been

learned from the performance of the Japanese stock market. When the Nikkei stock market index was powering to its peak of nearly 40,000 in 1989, supposedly that too was because of the overwhelming weight of funds.

If you questioned the valuation you were liable to be told that you simply did not understand. Japan was different. Then once the bubble burst, the market plunged. Interestingly, the "overwhelming weight of funds" had not changed—just the direction of the money and the price which assets commanded in the market. Today, the Nikkei index languishes below the 18,000 mark.

The reason why investors in the United States, many of them unsophisticated, continue to pile money into mutual funds is simply the extraordinary recent performance of such investments. They are operating on the assumption that this performance can be repeated. Indeed, isn't it what shares always do? An annual increase of 10 per cent is more or less guaranteed, but that would amount to a bad year—15 per cent or 20 per cent is what they are really gunning for, year after year.

But once such investors experience a sharp loss, their attitude may be rather different. That's where fear comes back in.

Still the ultra-bulls are unfazed. Where are investors going to put their money? It's got to go somewhere, they say. The answer is that it can go into bank deposits, where it can sit until the level of the market again makes stocks attractive.

It can also go into bonds. In the stock market crash of 1987, the initial reaction was to sell everything, bonds included. But the second thought was to switch out of equities into bonds. In last week's equity sell-off, in both London and New York, this was the immediate reaction. As shares fell, bonds rose.

This made perfect sense. Although the interest rates on long government bonds look low on a historical comparison, the excellent inflation performance suggests that they have actually been offering good value. Their prospective returns have only looked pedestrian compared to the sparkling gains supposedly to be had from shares.

If you question whether share prices can rise any further, however, it looks like a different matter. Nor do you have to believe the low inflation story to see attractions in bonds. You can get well over 3 per cent above inflation from index-linked gilts—guaranteed by the British Government. That is piffling stuff when greed is in the ascendant, but it will look mighty attractive if fear stalks the street.

Compromise urged on minimum wage

THE proposed minimum wage should be set at £3.85 an hour, says the Centre for Economic Performance today in its submission to the Low Pay Commission. The recom-

mendation trends a line somewhere between the assertions of both employer organisations and trade unions.

So far the Confederation of British Industry has called for

£3.20 as the maximum that could be imposed, saying that anything higher would lead to job losses. The TUC, meanwhile, wants a proposal "somewhat above" £4.

The £3.85 figure was reached by examining the average minimum wage set by wages councils before their abolition in 1993 of £3.07 and applying a nominal growth rate.

China deal adds to Boeing's problems

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BOEING is expected to sign an historic \$1.5 billion aircraft deal with China this week against the backdrop of its most severe production problems in more than a decade.

Jiang Zemin, the Chinese President, will order 50 Boeing aircraft on Tuesday, when he begins the first US state visit in 12 years. The order will include 40 737s, five 757s and five 777s.

Zeng Peiyuan, Vice-President of the State Planning Commission, said Boeing will be invited to assemble the 737s in Shanghai plants. Airbus and Boeing are both trying to get a foothold in Asia. China is seen as the biggest growth market for aircraft.

Severe production problems at Boeing, which triggered a \$1.6 billion (£1 billion) third-quarter charge, have arisen from the inability to cope with "unprecedented" demand. It has suffered a shortage of raw materials, parts and manpower and will not be able to give a definite delivery schedule for the aircraft.

Airbus, the European consortium that includes British Aerospace, hopes to capitalise on Boeing's woes. It has struck an agreement with Chinese manufacturers to build a 100-seat aircraft and hopes China will help to finance a new superjumbo.

Ending of duty-free 'will hit low fares'

BY JON ASHWORTH

LOW-COST airlines and ferry operators will be forced to pass steep price increases on to customers if duty-free shopping is abolished in Europe in July 1999, according to BAA.

Discount £29 air fares could rise to £44 as a result of the move, spelling difficulties for budget operators such as Debonair and EasyJet.

Sir John Egan, chief executive of BAA, the airports to retail group, accused the Treasury of "humbly" over its response to the planned abolition of duty-free and said the move would hurt business and cost hundreds of jobs.

BAA faces a potential loss of profit of £80 million if duty-free shopping is abolished on travel within Europe. Passengers will continue to enjoy duty-free shopping on international flights outside Europe. BAA is expected to recoup £55 million in increased landing charges, and hopes to continue to offer discounts of 20 per cent on liquor and tobacco, mitigating the losses.

Sir John gave warning that low-cost UK airlines, ferry operators and small airports would be the main losers under the new regime. Air fares would rise by £15 per person. He said: "I am not sure the impact on us will be as serious as on the ferry operators and low-cost carriers. There is a massive subsidy being paid from this into travel costs."

Sir John attacked the UK's "uncompetitive" tax and duty rates, adding: "There is an awful lot of humbug in this, with newspapers buying the Treasury line on distortion of trade, and all that. We're selling to foreigners going home. These are British goods, good for the balance of payments, so why be so precious about it?"

Duty and tax rates vary tremendously across Europe. In Italy, excise rates on spirits are 76 per cent lower than in the UK. Cigarettes are 45 per cent lower. Only Denmark and the Irish Republic have higher excise rates on spirits, while tobacco is universally cheaper. BAA says duty-free should remain until tax and currency rates have been harmonised across Europe.

The European Monetary Committee meets on Wednesday to discuss the issues and is expected to recommend to the European Commission that a formal study be carried out.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar

1.6388 (+0.0180)

German mark

2.9062 (+0.0483)

Exchange index

102.1 (+1.6)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share

3316.5 (-108.7)

FTSE 100

4970.2 (-300.9)

New York Dow Jones

7715.41 (-131.62)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

17363.74 (-114.68)

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TOP 30 AGENCIES - ALL EIGHT CRITERIA

Rank	Agency	% who placed agency in their top three
1	Born	29.2%
2	McCann	28.3%
3	McCann	28.3%

TOP 30 AGENCIES - FOR CREATIVE ABILITY

Rank	Agency	% who placed agency in their top three
1	Born	32.2%
2	McCann	30.2%
3	McCann	29.2%

TOP 30 AGENCIES - FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING ABILITY

Rank	Agency	% who placed agency in their top three
1	Born	33.3%
2	McCann	30.2%
3	McCann	29.2%

TOP 30 AGENCIES - FOR RELEVANT SECTOR EXPERIENCE

Rank	Agency	% who placed agency in their top three
1	Born	30.2%
2	McCann	29.2%
3	McCann	28.3%

TOP 30 AGENCIES - FOR QUALITY OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT

Rank	Agency	% who placed agency in their top three
1	Born	28.3%
2	McCann	28.3%
3	McCann	28.3%

TOP 30 AGENCIES - FOR EVALUATION TECHNIQUES

Rank	Agency	% who placed agency in their top three
1	Born	29.2%
2	McCann	28.3%
3	McCann	28.3%

TOP 30 AGENCIES - FOR FULL SERVICE CAPACITY

Rank	Agency	% who placed agency in their top three
1	Born	29.2%
2	McCann	28.3%
3	McCann	28.3%

TOP 30 AGENCIES - FOR A NUMBER OF DISCIPLINES

Rank	Agency	% who placed agency in their top three
1	Born	30.2%
2	McCann	29.2%
3	McCann	28.3%

TOP 30 AGENCIES - ACCOUNT HANDLING

Rank	Agency	% who placed agency in their top three
1	Born	29.2%
2	McCann	28.3%
3	McCann	28.3%

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British at forefront of designer-led revolution

Packaging is crucial to product success says Sarah Cunningham

In a scene from *Annie Hall*, Woody Allen wonders aloud why there are so many awards dished out and whether Adolf Hitler would stand a chance in the Best Dictator category. Receiving an award for designing a motor oil container may seem similarly ludicrous, but to those involved it is a very serious business indeed.

Halfords, the car parts and accessories retailer, and its consultants, Lipa Pearce and Penagram, were the winners of last year's own-brand packaging Design Effectiveness Award for the above-mentioned oil cans. Halfords is up for three awards in this year's DEA competition, whose winners will be announced tonight.

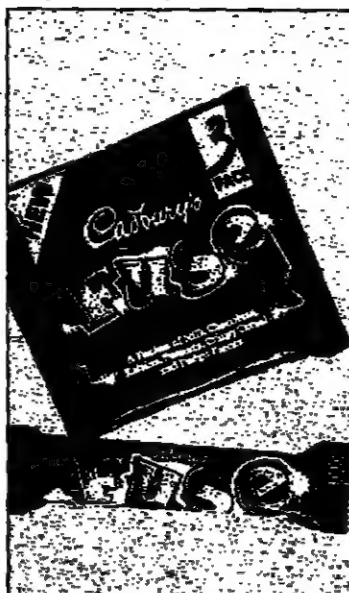
While a customer might think that buying a particular brand of motor oil is determined by what is best, or cheapest, for the car, according to the designers of the award-winning Halfords packaging: "Design has been the single most significant factor in the runaway success of the range."

Zoe Morgan, marketing and buying manager for Halfords, which is part of the Boots Group, said that the design of the containers — whose main claim to fame is that they remove the "glug" from pouring oil by having the handle in a different place — had cost the company £100,000 and involved seven other companies, including consultants, a manufacturer and a plastic blow-moulding specialist.

It was all worth it, Ms Morgan said, because "we have grown market shares in all areas where we have invested in design and where nothing else has been changed. Over a period of time our reputation for quality and



Britain's fifth free TV channel



Up for design awards: Channel 5, top left, and Waterstone's, bottom right, both nominated for their corporate identity. Cadbury's for the packaging of its Fudge bar, and the Dyson vacuum cleaner. The winners will be announced tonight

reliability has improved."

Among other companies — and their consultants — to emerge as finalists this year are Channel 5 and Waterstone's for their corporate identity, Cadbury for the packaging of its new Fudge bar, J Sainsbury for the packaging of its dried fruit, and BHS for its bra packaging.

According to the criteria of the competition, a design counts as effective if the judges believe that it has made the outstanding contribution to the commercial success of a project. The ceremony will be followed by *The Design Show*, running from tomorrow until

Thursday at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London, which will showcase the work of 70 design groups.

The British commercial design industry, which is believed to be worth £12 billion a year and employs 12,000 people, is flourishing. Just as fashion designers such as John Galiano and Alexander McQueen have made British fashion the most exciting in Europe, so British commercial designers have begun to gain important international recognition. There are even a few star designers around, such as James Dyson of Dyson vacuum cleaner fame, whose com-

pany won the Design Effectiveness Grand Prix last year.

British manufacturers now spend £10 billion on product development and design — done both inhouse and through consultants — while British design consultants earn nearly £400 million a year abroad.

Ian Rowland-Hill, chief executive of the Design Business Association, believes — not too surprisingly — that there is a lot further to go. He points to the Confederation of British Industry's national manufacturing report, published earlier this year, which showed that only one in ten of Britain's

manufacturers is "truly innovative".

He dismisses the suggestion that foreigners are actually better at this sort of stuff. Italians, he says, "have a reputation for flair and style, but they come to our design schools and do not have the number of design companies we have". European car companies, he says, are "stuffed with British designers".

Richard Holmes, director of marketing for Boots the Chemists, which has won several Design Effectiveness awards in the past and is a finalist again this year, says that all the company's packaging and retail space is designed by outside consultants, all of them British.

He, along with John McConnell of Penagram, relies on a roster of about 20 companies. Mr Holmes has been with Boots for only two years, after spending most of his career working in Paris and Milan for Unilever, and he believes that British designers are second to none. "British modern commercial design is at the leading edge," he said. "It is partly about the best attracting the best. It's the same as if a country is good at football, then the youngsters want to play football."

He believes that the increased emphasis on clean, purposeful design, which is noticeable among all the successful retailers, has made a huge difference to Boots: "Boots' success is based on getting really, really close to customers and then getting designers to solve problems."

As to the importance of this week's awards, according to Ms Morgan, it is not that they gain a company public recognition: "They are hugely motivational internally. People get a lot of satisfaction from knowing we are doing good work," she said.

And as for companies that think they can manage without worrying about their design, they are kidding themselves, Mr Holmes said. "Everyone is involved in design whether they do it well or badly. The best companies do it better."

Earth's fragile existence

Equinox: Sun Storm

Channel 4, 9.00pm

Earth, that insignificant speck in the cosmos, relies on a ball of burning hydrogen, the Sun, for its existence. How fragile is that existence? It is made plain by this scary examination into the potential devastation caused by the activity of sun storms. Turmoil on the Sun's surface produces magnetic storms which spew out solar material into space. This magnetically charged plasma reaches Earth and causes power surges which can wipe out power systems and satellite communication while playing havoc with our climate. In 1989 much of Quebec suffered a power surge of such magnitude it was left without heat or light for days. We are just beginning to understand the fallout. One scientist believes that sun storms are as responsible for global warming as greenhouse gases. As the millennium approaches, so the increasing frequency of sun storms is predicted. Be afraid.

Gold

ITV, 9.00pm

Women with attitude wear red stilettos and skirts up to here — the working girls of Kay Mellor's *Band of Gold* are back. Well, two of them, at least. In this follow-up series the core stories revolve around the fate of Rose and Carol, last seen getting out of the game and inheriting a fortune respectively. Carol may have been left a lucrative chicken factory but her troubles do not stop there. The vindictive nephew of her benefactor is out to besmirch her name and win back his inheritance. Meanwhile, Rose's attempts to become respectable are proving harder than even she expected. In the first episode she goes for a job as a hotel receptionist but ends up with one that has little to do with customer relations. Interwoven is a tale of murder and assault which will unravel in future episodes. Sassy, salty and fabulously played by Geraldine James and Cathy Tyson.

Picture This

BBC2, 9.30pm

A melancholic look from new director Freya Lal at the lives of three portrait artists who make their living on London's Leicester Square. Sporting a luxuriant mane of black hair, a mobile phone and



Host John Inverdale (BBC1, 10.40pm)

a sharp suit, TJ has tears in his eyes when he tells of his wife to whom he proposed after two days and whom he has not seen for six months. Bobby Solo, looking like Willie Nelson without the hair, has tears in his eyes when questioned about his family. Only Sumi, the Japanese girl brought up in Central America, refrains from crying when pressed on the subject of her brother's suicide. Their sad stories are accompanied by the continuous scratchings of pencil on paper and an inordinate amount of close-ups on eyes that can get a little irritating.

On Side

BBC1, 10.40pm

Proving that a sports programme does not have to appeal only to fanatics is this new magazine with the emphasis on information and entertainment. Chats with stars are interwoven with features and a round-up of the weekend's highlights with previews of forthcoming events, held together by host John Inverdale. The roll-call of names indicates the quality expected: in programme one the guests are the footballing legend Johan Cruyff, the charming, charming jockey Frankie Dettori, and deposed Formula One champion Damon Hill. Not a bad cross-section of the sporting greats. A rare scoop is also promised with an interview with the man who has beaten Mike Tyson twice (and not many people can say that), Evander Holyfield. Frances Law

RADIO CHOICE

Birdsong

Radio 4, 2.00pm

One of the drama highlights of the week is this dramatisation by Nick Stafford of the bestselling novel by Sebastian Faulks. The radio version is in three parts and stars Toby Stephens and Sophie Ward. The story is really in two strands which become one when the two people concerned meet and fall in love. Stephens plays Stephen Warlock, who travels to France in 1910 to study textiles but soon falls in love with Isabelle (Ward), the wife of the owner of the factory where Warlock is based. They start a passionate affair and run away together but... well, to say any more would spoil part one, but the overall story, covering love and war and all the elements of human relationships, is well suited to radio.

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and 2008 Bill 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 The World 12.30pm News 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 David Pearson 6.15 News 6.30 Sound City 9.00 Steve Lamacz and John Peel present live music from the Zodiac Club and Brooks University. With Embrace, Travis, Ultrasound, Scarfo and Gary 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Dave Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Garner 11.30 David Aronowicz 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.30pm Steve Lamacz 5.00pm News 5.30pm John Peel 8.00pm Malcolm Lockyer 9.00pm Big Band Special 9.30pm News 10.00pm News 10.30pm Richard Allen 12.00am John Tennant 3.00am Alex Leslie

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nick Campbell 12.00 Midday with Mark 2.00pm Ruzoco on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00pm News Extra 7.30pm Football Legends 8.00pm The Monday Night Coverage 9.00pm News 9.30pm News 10.00pm News 10.30pm News 11.00pm News 11.30pm News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 1.50am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 1.50am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 4.30am News 5.00am News 5.30am News 6.00am News 6.30am News 7.00am News 7.30am News 8.00am News 8.30am News 9.00am News 9.30am News 10.00am News 10.30am News 11.00am News 11.30am News 12.00am News 12.30am News 1.00am News 1.30am News 1.50am News 2.00am News 2.30am News 3.00am News 3.30am News 4.00am News 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Two fat ladies good, one fat lady not so good

Unfortunately, *Sex and Chocolate* (BBC1) was not the first BBC production to have linked those two pleasures in the past week. As Michael Maloney grandly tried to tempt David Warner away from his *Panther* chocolate, he called "did you know that chocolate releases the same chemical reaction in the brain as sex?" I knew I'd heard virtually the same line only a few days before. Got it. It was *Charlotte's Web* (Wright) — oh dear — *Two Fat Ladies*.

Suddenly everything fell uncom-

fortably into place. *Sex and Chocolate* — or *Sex and Milk Chocolate* with a *High Milk Content*, as the repeat must have been called — wasn't just a chick flick. It was a fat chick's flick. Bad news if you were male and/or halfway slim.

Believe me, being a fat and a size-12 by paragraph two does not come easily, but as far as I can see there's no alternative. Did a chap

believe that a successful male fashion photographer, bumping into his first girlfriend, would not be deterred by the fact she was now the size of a small primary school? No, a chap did not. I know, I know. This completely missing the point. This was a romantic fantasy, where the whole point was that Bev Bodger (subtle stuff, huh?) would still be wooed, whisked off to Paris and become the crowning moment in a Jasper Conran fashion show — despite her size. But if I'd missed the point, so had Tony Grounds, its writer, whose chocolate confection was soured by over-elaboration.

That's because *Sex and Chocolate* didn't rest on one improbability, but two. Bev's pursuit by Billy Gale (Maloney), the world-famous photographer, was actually the second. The first was that she enjoyed a preposterously happy marriage to Ian Bodger (Phil Daniels) returning to our screens

after a break of at least five minutes, a ska-loving, semi-reformed skinhead who was both dream husband and perfect father. One covering improbability was fine, two I could cope with as long as we stayed in the realm of fantasy. But please, after a moderately enjoyable 80 minutes, don't ask me to believe that these comic fantasies are real people with real emotions. The sight of poor Daniels, pointlessly emoting his socks off, was too much to bear and certainly proof that when it comes to romantic fantasy (and please don't let it come too often), you cannot have your cake and eat it. Not even a chocolate one.

The best drama of the week-end came early, on Friday in fact, when the same recipe of leisurely pace and a familiar-looking cast was used to much better effect in *An Unsuitable Job for a Woman* (ITV). The gentle

character she is playing. For the first half-hour, I had all sorts of problems believing she was Cordelia Gray, the young woman who inherits a private detective agency when her boss, a former policeman, commits suicide after being told he had terminal cancer. For the second half-hour, we weren't quite at the "I couldn't imagine she'd ever played anyone else stage, but we were getting there."

That was partly because of her performance (more thoughtful, lots of pauses, less flashing of eyes) and partly because of the quality of what was going on around her. Rosemary Leach, in particular, was outstanding as the emotionally bottled-up spinster who found the unfortunate young man hanging in the summer house. Oh yes, the clichés of the genre are there, but William Hume, who has adapted the P.D. James novel into three parts, and Ben Bolt, the director, have so far tipped very

well around them. Part two cannot come quickly enough.

If the familiar opening titles are still a clue of what lies ahead, all those theatre tickets suggest that *Omibus* (BBC1) is still an arts programme. In which case what was a profile of Katharine Graham, owner of *The Washington Post*, doing there last night, apart from serving as a very long trailer for *All the President's Men*?

Although I suspect Ursula Macfarlane's film, *Citizen Kay*, contained few surprises for those familiar with Graham's riches to riches story, it will surely never be told by a more authoritative cast. From Graham herself, to Henry Kissinger, to the heroes of the Watergate story — Ben Bradlee, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein — the story was told first-hand by everyone, barring the many Presidents she has known. Post-Watergate, the narrative got a

bit vague and confused. So they ran the credits and showed the film instead.

No doubting the provenance, however, of *Arthouse Channel 4's* new arts documentary series. Not only was it about pictures, they were actually by an artist we had all heard of even if we can't always agree about how he is pronounced: Van Gogh. The problem is that not all Van Goghs are his — some of them could be Schuffenecker's. That was the basic contention put forward by Geraldine Norman, a writer, saleroom expert and art historian.

Norman is not a natural broadcaster (the lack of gloss eventually proved a plus rather than a minus), and some messy captioning made her task no easier, but she turned the complex story of the Van Gogh fakes into riveting television. If this is a sign of things to come, Channel 4 could have something rather special on its hands.

BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (84447)
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (83805)
9.00am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (2336992)
9.25am Style Challenge (835027)
9.50am Kilroy (1) (1101589)
10.30am Change That (8350389)
10.55am The Really Useful Show (1) (1557805)
11.35am Red Rooms New series, Transforming a neglected bedroom (217553)

12.00pm News (1) and weather (8380505)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (7322282)
12.35pm Going for a Sing Antiques quiz (5004643)
1.00pm News (1) and weather (838052)
1.30pm Regional News and weather (73146331)
1.40pm The Weather Show (2860004)
1.45pm Neighbours (1) (7182943)
2.10pm Outrage (1) (8380508)
3.00pm World on a Plate New series, Loyd Grossman investigates the history of food worldwide, beginning in Jordan and Monte Carlo (1) (8343)

3.30pm Playdays (8315893) 3.50pm Enchanted Lands (8003388) 4.00pm Road Darts: Revolving Recipes (8352253) 4.15pm Noah's Island (8704640) 4.40pm Goodies (8417114) 5.00pm Newsround (1) (2034973) 5.15pm Blue Peter (1) (8300396)
5.35pm Neighbours (1) (7182943)
6.00pm News (1) and weather (824)
6.30pm Regional News (175)
7.00pm This Is Your Life (1) (1824)
7.30pm Here and Now Chris Chalk investigates the work of sculptors (1) (550)
8.00pm EastEnders: The tension between Sarah and Joe peaks (1) (7044)
8.30pm Only Fools and Horses: Classic comedy, starring David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst (1) (7379)
9.00pm News (1) and weather (8331)
9.30pm Bloomer: Mervyn's Jack and Liz decide to make the most of their last child-free days together. Last in series (1) (83263)
10.00pm Panorama: Gay Times Examining the change in attitudes within the political parties towards same sex relationships (1) (830378)
10.40pm On Side New sport-based show with John Inverdale talking to the footballer John Collins, the jockey Frankie Dettori, the boxer Evander Holyfield and Formula One's Damon Hill (1) (22824)
11.30pm Film '97 with Barry Norman Reviews of thriller *L.A. Confidential*, with Kim Basinger and Kevin Spacey, and *Smilla's Feeling for Snow*, starring Julia Ormond and Michael York. Plus a report on Northern Ireland's thriving film and television industry (56027) WALES: 11.30pm FAW Invitation Cup: Cardiff City v Wrexham (591350) 12.00am Film '97 with Barry Norman (4911480) 12.40am Film: Bad Men's River (595751) 2.10am News (1) (830378)
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MONDAY OCTOBER 27 1997

Bitter pill for Glaxo Wellcome as rivals capture sales

By PAUL DURMAN

LESS than three months since first being exposed to unbranded competition, Glaxo Wellcome's top-selling ulcer drug has already lost more than half its US sales to rivals that are on course to reduce prices 85 per cent by the end of the year.

Zantac, once the world's biggest-selling pharmaceutical, lost its US patent protection in July, allowing generic drug

companies to begin supplying ranitidine hydrochloride, as it is known chemically. According to an industry estimate, the six generic firms that have so far entered the market have already captured 57 per cent of prescriptions.

Nigel Barnes, analyst at Merrill Lynch, is wary of Glaxo Wellcome because of the speed with which it is losing Zantac sales to the generic version. He points out that Novartis, the Swiss drugs company that

is supplying ranitidine through its generic arm, is predicting the generic price will fall to only 15 per cent of the branded price by the end of the year. The growing differential will hasten Glaxo Wellcome's loss of sales.

Glaxo Wellcome shares have been highly volatile this year. On Friday, they closed at £12.55, against a 1997 high of £14.06 and a low of 89p.

Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo Wellcome's

chairman and chief executive, has conceded that the company will eventually lose 90 per cent of its Zantac sales, but the erosion of the US business is taking place much faster than in other similar cases.

Novartis says the price erosion has been dramatic since the first generics appeared at the start of August. It estimates the price had fallen to 50 per cent of brand by the end of the first month and to 25 per cent by the end of

September. This is set to continue as Geneva, the Novartis generic business, and others battle for market share.

Since generic drugs are by definition medically identical, price is overwhelmingly the most important factor. Industry models suggest the speed and scale of price erosion depends on the number of competitors that appear.

Zantac seems set for a much more rapid demise than that suffered by Tagamet, a

similar ulcer drug from SmithKline Beecham that lost its patent a few years ago. According to AT Kearney, the consultants, one year after entry to the market, generics had captured 65 per cent of sales but the price discount to the brand was limited to 50 per cent.

The sales of generic companies are expected to grow rapidly in the next few years, with many large-selling drugs approaching the end of patent protection.

City watchdog system faces radical reform

By CAROLINE MERRELL

DISCIPLINARY procedures for financial companies are expected to be radically overhauled under the new single regulatory organisation.

Plans for the new body, provisionally named NewRo, are to be revealed this week. The single authority will replace nine regulatory organisations and will have responsibility for supervising banks, investment companies, building societies, securities firms, financial advisers and insurers. Howard Davies, the NewRo chairman, will present proposals to senior

representatives from the industry tomorrow. He will also unveil the new name.

The introduction of a single supervisory body will simplify the current regulatory system, under which many financial companies have more than one regulator. The new organisation is expected to move away from self-regulation, where representatives from the companies are largely responsible for the regulatory framework, to a more legalistic system, under which public interest groups will have a greater influence on policy.

But a shift to a system more akin to the Securities and Exchange Commission in America is bound to create friction among the companies, many of which are already struggling to compensate thousands of people who were mis-sold personal pensions.

Executives at the super regulator are also believed to want the disciplinary process to be more consistent, and swifter. For instance, the Personal Investment Authority (PIA) the retail regulator, has fined a number of companies for being slow to pay compensation to pensions mis-selling victims. However, the PIA is yet to fine any company for the mis-selling itself, despite the fact that many of the pensions were bought in the late 1980s, and the problems of mis-selling have been known about for the last four years.

An overhaul of the disciplinary process could also include introducing greater powers to fine companies. Another inconsistency in the system was revealed last week when the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief city watchdog, rebuked the Prudential, the UK's biggest insurance company, for failing to tackle its mis-selling problems properly. Unlike other life insurance companies regulated by the PIA, the Prudential escaped a fine because SIB cannot impose fines.

The new super-regulator is not expected to be fully operational until 2000. At the moment, staff from the nine regulators are being asked to apply for jobs at NewRo and no job losses are expected.



The power of love: National Youth Theatre actors Lucy Punch and David Nicolle as Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet at Peterborough power station to launch a three-year, £570,000 sponsorship of the theatre group by The Energy Group

City braced for EMU verdict

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

FINANCIAL markets are braced for today's statement of government policy towards the European single currency towards the European single currency from Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

After weeks of ambiguity in ministers' comments and contradictory press reports, traders are nervous about the contents of what is hoped will be the final exposition of the Government's position on economic and monetary union.

Business leaders are also anxious to see the contents of the Chancellor's statement,

with the Confederation of British Industry and the British Chambers of Commerce privately dismayed last week at reports that joining the single currency would be ruled out for the lifetime of this Parliament.

A CBI survey published today suggests that the strong pound is having a severe adverse impact on small and medium-sized businesses, with exports falling at their fastest rate in 19 years.

Yesterday NatWest Bank embarked on its biggest-ever training scheme to prepare its 5,200 corporate banking staff to deal with EMU. The plan is to equip staff

with the skills needed to help the bank's 35,000 corporate customers to do business in euros, whether or not Britain joins the single currency.

Patrick Foley and Trevor Williams, the Lloyds Bank economists, today argue that the fact that Britain's economic cycle is out of sync with the rest of Europe is not an impediment to entry either in 1999 or later. They believe that, by 1999, British rates may be only 1 per cent higher than the average of European interest rates.

Labour's policy on EMU, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Utilities finds chief to replace Pitcher

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

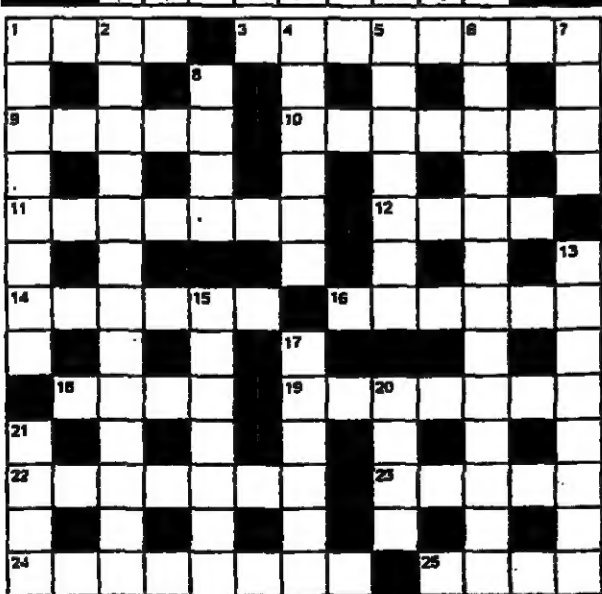
UNITED UTILITIES is close to naming a successor to Sir Desmond Pitcher, its embattled chairman. The United board will meet tomorrow to ratify the appointment of a senior business figure, believed to be from outside the utilities sector and to be announced in the next few days.

The appointment of the new chairman will not hasten the departure of Sir

Desmond, who is expected to defy pressure from institutions to leave before next summer, following the sacking in July of Brian Staples, chief executive.

The chairman-elect is expected to work for several months alongside Sir Desmond to get to grips with the business, which next year faces the introduction of competition into household electricity.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1235

- ACROSS
1 Kitchen receptacle; largish (sum) (4)
3 Luggage conveyor; a musical (8)
9 Rooftop length (5)
10 Prosperity; state aid (7)
11 Long journey (after Homer) (7)
12 Unclothed (4)
14 Sit badly; sort of hat (6)
16 Resilience; recoil (6)
18 Hideous (4)
19 Small-size newspaper (7)
22 Put away (knife) (7)
23 Walk furtively (along) (5)
24 Unqualified (8)
25 Badly-brought-up child (4)
- DOWN
1 Prov. slow-moving pet (8)
2 Crane-fly (5-4-4)
4 Without exception (6)
5 Disney World city; marries Rosalind (AYLI) (7)
6 Regular payment by bank (8,5)
7 German art song; fibbed (4)
8 Dame Myra -; loose Spaniard inmate (4)
13 First-place tie (4,4)
15 Regular-shaped mineral; fine glass (7)
17 Urban road (6)
20 Good Tudor Queen (4)
21 Highest, most populated continent (4)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1234
ACROSS: 1 Wonderland 9 Tooling 10 Freer 11 Fore 12 Reptile 14 Endure 15 Helmet 18 Shelving 20 Flea 22 Ibsen 23 Achieve 24 Temperance
DOWN: 2 Odin 3 Dogged 4 Reformer 5 Abele 6 Derwentwater 7 Shuffled 8 Horrid 13 Provence 16 Millet 17 Ankara 19 Epsom 21 Chic

BA plans no-frills service to Europe

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS is working on plans for a cheap, no-frills service for Europe in a move that would intensify the price war among airlines.

BA has commissioned research on how a low-cost service would be received in a wide number of European destinations. Its emphasis is

on leisure travel but it is also examining the needs of younger travellers.

The new no-frills service would compete with the budget lines such as EasyJet, Ryanair, Debonair and Virgin Express, which have been successful on short-haul routes. These airlines undercut standard fares by between 40 per cent and 80 per cent.

A cheaper BA service would also target passengers who use Eurostar to Paris and Brussels. A fresh round of price cuts among the airlines would be inevitable with the arrival of a new strong player in the sector. It is likely that BA's service would start next year and fly out of Stansted airport in Essex.

Alliance opposes Liberty chairman

By MARTIN BARROW

BRIAN MYERSON, the South African investor, has joined forces with the Stewart-Liberty family to unseat Denis Cassidy as chairman of Liberty, the upmarket retailer, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Myerson's, Concerto Capital Corporation, which speaks for 17 per cent, is supporting the family, with 27.2 per cent, in their call for an extraordinary meeting to remove Mr Cassidy.

The unexpected alliance is certain to raise eyebrows in the City. It was Mr Myerson who, in 1992, campaigned against the Stewart-Liberty family and the then archaic share structure.

On Friday Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty, the matriarch of

the family, requisitioned an extraordinary meeting to remove Mr Cassidy and to seek the appointment of two new non-executive directors. These are Mr Myerson and Odile Griffith, who represents the Stewart-Liberty family.

The move reflects concern at Liberty's ailing share price, unchanged at 205p on Friday against a 1996 high of 442.5p, as the company embarks on a £40 million rest of the flagship Regent Street store in London.

The move is supported by Richard Stewart-Liberty and his brother Oliver, who were the last family members to serve as directors. Mr Cassidy will hold a board meeting this week to consider his next move.

Top chef and Granada put stock market on menu

Cook's tour de force

By MARTIN WALLER

THE stock market, already buffeted by last week's storms, should batten down the hatches for the arrival of an even fiercer typhoon, Marco Pierre White, celebrity chef, intends to float his joint venture with Granada Group within two years.

The man whose reputation for rudeness and temper tantrums eclipses his fame in the kitchen was brought in by Granada this summer to inject some flair into hotels acquired as part of last year's Forte takeover. The pair

formed a joint venture, MPW Criterion, which includes Mr White's Criterion restaurant on Piccadilly, originally a collaboration with Forte, his Quo Vadis in Soho and the Minabelle. He will be taking on culinary duties at seven Granada hotels.

Charles Allen, Granada's chief executive, wants to bring diners back to the grand hotels, which currently lack any reputation for culinary excellence, and take trade from upmarket restaurants. Mr White intends to take

the company public by selling shares as part of a flotation. His plans were contained in the memorandum of agreement signed with Granada in August, although his partner is believed to favour a longer wait before going to market.

Mr White confirmed his intention to float but refused to comment further. He said: "I don't like your tone. There are lots of other people who are doing interesting things who I'm sure will give you a story. I'm a busy man."

Yahoo! puts free market news on the Net

By CHRIS AYLES

YAHOO!, the Internet information company, will today launch a continuous stock market news and data service, available free to anyone with access to a computer and modem (Chris Ayles writes).

The service, to run on a 20-minute delay and to include financial news from Reuters and the Press Association, will be a direct challenge to its more traditional wire-based rivals, such as IGV's Topic. It will be funded by advertising revenues.

Other features of the service will include exchange rates, precious metal prices, company profiles and share prices from Paris and Frankfurt stock markets.

A direct link will be given to Yahoo!'s service in the US, which combines New York Stock Exchange share prices with a broking service.

Yahoo! was created three years ago by David Filo and Jerry Yang, two American PhD students, who each made £90 million when it was floated on the New York Stock Exchange last year. Its name stands for Yet Another Hierarchical Official Oracle.

The company aims to capitalise on the swelling number of private investors in Britain - currently estimated to be more than 18 million - created partly by the conversion of building societies into banks. Yahoo! is expected to launch a cut-price online stockbroking service next year.

If Yahoo! goes ahead with its UK share trading service it will face an intense battle with current online broking companies such as ShareLink, City Deal and Stocktrade.

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